

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Julian Castro

Date of birth: September 16, 1974

Position sought: Mayor

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? I have been a resident of San Antonio for 38 years.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? Excellent.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? No.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? I am convinced San Antonio must focus on three big areas: creating a well-educated workforce, matching that brainpower to jobs in 21st century industries, and making San Antonio America's most livable city. If re-elected, I would like to refocus our city's efforts on closing the skills gap that exists between our city's workforce needs and the availability of skilled labor. I also believe we must significantly enhance the livability of our city and tend to one of our basic needs—water supply.

Do you support increased pay for council members? Yes.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? I believe that economic development and environmental stewardship are both important. CPS' focus on the New Energy Economy and its creation of hundreds of good-paying jobs in our city, is a good example of how job creation and environmental stewardship can combine to benefit San Antonio powerfully.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations? Yes, it is important for San Antonio to continue to grow in a reasonable and orderly way. I would support annexing areas where annexation will benefit current San Antonians and the residents to be annexed. Recently, the City Council set out a new annexation policy, and I look forward to an analysis of proposed annexation areas pursuant to the new policy.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone? I support the regulations in place and believe that, as a community, we must be continually vigilant in keeping our ordinances updated such that their specifics are based upon evidence of how they're working in practice.

How would you address the city's future water needs? We must continue to be a national leader in conservation, water recycling and water recover and storage. SAWS also has an important opportunity to secure up to 50,000 additional acre-feet of water this year from non-Edwards sources. If the cost is reasonable and it can be integrated into a viable budget, I believe SAWS should pursue the purchase.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? I support light rail and believe San Antonio should pursue it.

Why are you running for City Council? My vision for San Antonio is this: to build brainpower community that is the liveliest city in the United States. I am running for Mayor because I am confident I can help us become a more economically prosperous, well educated and livable city.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.
I served on the San Antonio City Council from 2001-2005 as councilman for District 7 and have served as Mayor of San Antonio since 2009.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement. Before being elected Mayor, I served on the board of Family Services Association, the San Antonio National Bank Advisory Board, the Clear Channel San Antonio Advisory Board, and the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council.

Describe your education. I graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Stanford University and Harvard Law School.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: SERGIO FALCON

Date of birth: MARCH 17th., 1967 [THE YEAR OF LOVE] ACCORDING TO THE BEATLES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Position sought: MAYOR OF SAN ANTONIO

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? SINCE [THE MAYOR REPRESENTS ALL DISTRICTS] 43.5 YEARS

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? WITHIN GUIDELINES AND FOR VETERANS]

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? [FIRST RATE]!!!

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? IMMEDIATELY!! IT SOMETHING THE CURRENT MAYOR KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!!!

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? PROTECTING OUT KIDS FROM THE POTENTIAL THREAT ON ANY SCHOOL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Do you support increased pay for council members? ABSOLUTELY IT IS LONG OVER DUE AND IT WILL HAPPEN AS SOON AS I AM ELECTED \$100 DAILY FOR EVERY DISTRICT MEMBER AND 33.3 % OF WHAT THE CITY MANAGER MAKES FOR THE MAYOR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! RETROACTIVE FOR ALL FORMER COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYORS, VERIFIED BY THE RESPECTIVE COUNCIL DISTRICT MEMBER AND MAYOR RESPECTIVELY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? EMPHATIC!!! ECOMOMIC GROWTH CAN BE ATTAINED THROUGH INCREASED TOURISM AND COMPANIES ESTABLISHING THEIR BRAND IN SAN ANTONIO!!!!!! Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? THROUGH COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS!!! Would you support any annexations? IF IT BENEFITED THE CITY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?
IT HAS TO BE RESTRUCTURED TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

How would you address the city's future water needs? CHILD SAFETY IN THE
SCHOOL / BETTER AIRPORT SECURITY / TOURISM INCREASE / JOB
GROWTH /UPGRADE IN VETERAN NEEDS / COST EFFICIENT
EDUCATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? I
WILL GET THIS GOING WITH VIA RIGHT AWAY AND SHOW THEM WAYS TO
GET MORE REVENUE!!!!

SPIRIT COMPELS ME TO STOP THE DEPTHS OF IGNORANCE CURRENTLY
UNDERWAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.1983 STATE
CHAMPION WITH THE "JUDSON ROCKET" WON AT TEXAS STADIUM!!! / 1986
ENTERED ARMY SERVED IN FORT JACKSON S.C. / SOUTH KOREA [CAMP
HOVEY]...I TURNED TWENTY YEARS OLD AT THE "DMZ"!!! / FORT ORD CA
PRODUCTION SECURITY SINCE 1985!!!

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.BOYSVILLE / YMCA / FCA
[FELLOW CHRISTIAN ATHLETES] /FELLOW CHRISTIAN CENTER / FRANK
GARRET CENTER / HARD ROCK CHURCH!!!!!! TO NAME A FEW!!!!

Describe your education. HOWARD ELEM 1-3/ CORONADO ELEM.4-5/ LIVE OAK
ELEM 6/ KITTY HAWK JR HIGH 7,8,9 / JUDSON 10,11/ ALAMO HEIGHTS 12 /
G.E.D. DEC.1985 / JOHN F.KENNEDY [DIPLOMA] / FORT JACKSON [BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT/ FORT ORD COLLEGE [SUPPLY AND DEMAND]/ SOUTH
KOREA [KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL] / STUDIED HUMAN BEHAVIOR
AND SOCIOLOGY

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San
NON APPLICABLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you
or your spouse? NON APPLICABLE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have you ever been arrested? YES FOR PAST DUE TICKETS!!! Have you ever been
convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations?NO, I DON'T THINK YOU

CAN RUN FOR MAYOR WITH FELONY CONVICTIONS!!! If the answer is yes, please explain.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Raymond Zavala

Date of birth: 12/03/51

Position sought: Mayor of San Antonio, TX

How long have you lived in the district/city you are seeking to represent? 61 years.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

I will not support any tax abatements or incentives unless the company/companies pay a living wage or more than \$11.00 per hour.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

I find that the current city manager of San Antonio is overrated, and overly paid. The city manager should have her performance rated by the citizens. The Di Giovanni incident is one of many that are disturbing. The city council should hold her accountable for her actions or inactions. I don't understand why she never stays to hear the citizens to speak at 6:00 PM on Wednesdays after the city council meetings.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

I have not signed or have pledged any document to raise taxes. This is a rhetorical question. Taxes aren't raised or increased anymore. What does happen is that property values are increased and fees are added.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

My top priority would be to serve the residents of San Antonio as an independent leader for the people. A leader that will be held accountable and have every member of the city council, staff, city employees and auditors be held accountable as well. I would impose a zero tolerance for ethics violations.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

I have not in the past, don't, I will not in the future support an increase in the council pay. The last thing that San Antonio needs is a group of professional politicians on the council. History has shown and proven that after some members leave council, most have found lucrative jobs, or positions with the companies, whose leaders donated to their campaigns, or with other entities that do business with the city.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

My philosophy is a simple one. No growth if it will have an environmentally detrimental impact of any kind over the aquifer or within a buffer zone surrounding the immediate area.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations? I would not support any annexation until city services (SAPD, SAFD, and EMS) are able to fully support the existing city boundaries and water supply studies are conducted based on any future annexation development.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I support the restriction of growth (neighborhoods and industry) over the Edwards aquifer. I would also encourage the purchasing of land tracts by city government to prevent development over the area. Strict enforcement and adherence to the current regulations should be applied.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

I would recommend that another (ASR) aquifer storage reservoir (underground storage area) to maintain water supply at a level to service customers be built. I would also encourage the continued development of the desalination plant.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

No. I do not think a rail system should be a part of the city's public transportation network. The city had a rail system before and it was replaced by buses operated by the transit bus company many years ago. San Antonio has very narrow streets and small downtown core. The current public transportation system is working and with the addition of the "primo" vehicles there isn't a real need for a rail system. I would recommend improvement of the existing trolleys and extending routes the routes.

Why are you running for City Council?

I chose to run for city council, because there is a need for a better and accountable change. The citizens of San Antonio deserve better representation. We need a leader that has a conscious, is compassionate, and is concerned about the needs of the senior citizens, the youth, the veterans and the taxpayers.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

I am a retired professional military non-commissioned officer. On a personal accomplishment level, I have been an officer or board member of five organizations.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

I have been a community activist, community leader, child advocate, and a board member/ leader in various organizations.

Describe your education.

I have a degree in aircraft technology.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

My spouse and I do not have any business relationships or contracts with the city of San Antonio.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

My spouse and I have never filed for bankruptcy nor had a tax lien placed on us.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No I have never been convicted of a crime.

Name: **Diego M. Bernal**

Date of birth: **10/19/1976**

Position sought: **City Council District 1**

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I've lived in District 1 for about eight years since returning home from the University of Michigan. Before college I lived in the District for about 15 years.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Yes. Bringing jobs and industry to the residents of San Antonio is a very competitive process, and I will do all I can to make sure our people have the best opportunities available.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

In my first term I learned how effective and adept Mrs. Sculley is at her job. She is a great City Manager.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

Although I don't plan on raising taxes, a pledge seems like unnecessary political theater, and "taxes" is an open, undefined term. The new Public Improvement District downtown, a TIRZ or even Pre-K can all fit under that umbrella. Each one deserves individual consideration.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

I can't narrow it down to one except to say I plan to be better and do more in my second term than I did in my first.

That said, I want to continue to serve all neighborhoods with a responsive office, one that is constantly scouring for ways to bring more street improvements, sidewalks, parks, safety and quality of life opportunities (ex: Siclovía, Luminaria). I also believe that economic development- jobs- is equally important, and expect to spend more time on that issue in the next two years.

If there are other issues that need immediate attention- like payday loans during my first term- I will respond accordingly.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Yes

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

Everything should be done with purpose, not just for symbolic reasons. Protecting the environment is important and our ordinances must be respected. However, if a City ordinance has unintended consequences and interferes with safe and responsible development, I believe that warrants a conversation.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

If by “pro-growth” you mean expanding our geographic boundaries, I don’t think we should pursue it aggressively. If there are opportunities that make sense the City should consider them, but as a blanket statement I don’t believe one can responsibly say “yes.”

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I support the restrictions protecting the Aquifer; as rainfall dwindles they are more important than ever. I am also very interested in our preservation program where recharge areas are set aside specifically to act as untouchable land in some of our most precious areas.

How would you address the city’s future water needs?

We have to strike the right balance between conservation, fortifying our current water supply and suppliers, and looking for new opportunities. No plan lacking in any of these three elements is a workable one.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city’s public transportation network?

It depends. “Rail” is ambiguous. Streetcar along select major corridors may work, but an elaborate rail system like BART in California’s Bay Area probably wouldn’t, at least not while there is no citywide traffic congestion. That is usually the primary indicator of successful lightrail.

A rapid commuter-line connecting San Antonio to other cities like Austin and Houston I certainly have an interest in.

Why are you running for City Council?

I love serving my City, and especially the part of the City I grew up and now live in. Through Council I am able to bring resources and opportunities to all areas, regardless of wealth of voting strength. I can bring infrastructure to neighborhoods that have been traditionally overlooked, job opportunities to meet the needs of the talent we have, or try to create a better quality of life for long-time residents and newcomers alike. San Antonio has a lot of potential- the City and its residents. I want to capitalize on both.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

I'm especially proud of my time as a civil rights attorney where I worked on public school finance, education, voting rights and employment discrimination cases.

As a musician I regard each project we release as a personal milestone, a different kind of accomplishment that is also very special and very personal.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

This past terms I volunteered with two youth organizations and was an active member of my church.

Describe your education.

BA, MSW and JD from the University of Michigan.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? **No**

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? **No**

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. **No**

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Norris Tyrone Darden

Date of birth: October 13, 1979

Position sought: District 2 City Council

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? Entire life (33 years)

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes, I support tax abatements and incentives that attract businesses that provide benefits to the community. However, I believe that a cost benefit analysis should be performed on each project to ensure a positive return on the investment to the community before any tax abatements and/or incentives are awarded.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? In some areas the city manager's job is outstanding as evidenced in maintaining a balanced budget, the fact that the city has a budget reserve fund during hard economic times and the level of growth downtown. In other areas that include services to low income families, youth and other specialized populations I have not seen the same level of stellar performance. Another area of concern is the city has developed a contracted labor strategy rather than building career jobs where by people can obtain civil service retirements. This is very disappointing. Also there seems to be a great deal of resource disparity in certain areas of the city budget priorities.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? I have never signed a pledge not to raise taxes and would have to study each request prior to making a decision. But I will not make a blanket pledge on anything. Every issue needs to be studied and a decision should be made on the merits.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? As City Councilman for District 2, I would focus on building capacity among its' residents' and business community to better utilize all the existing and future assets that come to the community to ensure they are impactful and sustainable.

Do you support increased pay for council members? Yes, being the 7th largest city in America making decisions for over one million people and managing a budget of over \$2 billion dollars there must be a full time commitment from council members.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? First and foremost the environment needs to be protected to ensure future livability. Economic growth should be managed in a way as to not negatively impact the environment. This can be accomplished by establishing guidelines and adhering to them.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations? Yes, I think that in areas that the city would benefit from annexation we should pursue them. Specifically in District 2 in the Northeast corridor where there is a lot of overlap. The city, county and other municipalities should work together on developing growth plans not only for San Antonio but for all stakeholders involved.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone? I support any and all regulations in reference to the Recharge zone that protect and preserve the city of San Antonio water source.

How would you address the city's future water needs? Continue to protect the Aquifer and work with the experts ensuring accountability and best practice are implemented.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? A rail system could be a part of the city's public transportation network but only if it resolves some of the public transportation issues for the city of San Antonio. Upon getting into office I want to study this issue and make sure the citizens get the highest return on investment as possible.

Why are you running for City Council?

I am running for City Council because I believe that there is a disconnect between the citizens of San Antonio and the politicians. There is much to be done in District 2 and I believe that I am the candidate that can build the bridges needed to connect people to opportunities. District 2 is a very large and diverse community and each and every voice should be heard. I want to return the District 2 City Council seat back to its constituents. I believe the people deserve effective leadership and an elected leader that advocates for their issues.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

Managed a successful Summer Jobs Program for youth ages 14-16; Coordinated two successful College Exploration Trips taking over one hundred low come youth to 25 Texas colleges and universities; Has a 82% success rate over the past four years assisting students receive a GED; Has written and produced 3 stage plays; Developed a host of community service programs related to Sports, Crime Reduction and Life Skills Development.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement. Member of the Urban Leadership Council, a grassroots youth advocacy group; Freelance Adult Basic Education Instructor; Member of the NAACP; Coach for Youth Sports; Mentor and tutor; Deacon at Greater Joy Church.

Describe your education. Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice (2001 SWT), **Master** of Science in Special Education (2003 SWT)

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? No

Have you ever been arrested? Yes

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? Yes

If the answer is yes, please explain. Convicted of a DUI in 2006.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Hector Medina

Date of birth: 01/28/1982

Position sought: San Antonio City Council District 2

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I was raised in the district and moved out. One year ago, I moved back into it.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

It depends on the situation. I favor using our tax dollars to maintain high quality services for the entire community, especially in district two.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

If I were to take office, I would base a rating on how her actions would affect the people of district two.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

I am willing to do that. I want fewer burdens on the tax payers of the district I am running to represent.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

I want better transportation for the people of district two. I want to fix as many roads as possible that are full of potholes and large cracks.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Yes, because I believe it would encourage them to serve better. A pay raise should be consistent with fiscal responsibility and when a vote for it passes, the raise should not take effect until the term after.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

I believe we need to have fair ordinances and code compliance enforcement set in place to balance things out.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

My first priority is serving my constituents and if growth helps them, I am willing to support it. Annexations should be done if basic city services such as police, fire and water, will be provided in the newly annexed area within two years.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

Regulations that ensure the people of our city have enough water. I oppose building in the recharge zone so water can flow more easily into the aquifer.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

Too much water is wasted on watering lawns. I would promote conservation that expands the use of xeriscaping and graywater for landscaping and good maintenance of infrastructure to save our city water. I do not want district two to see more rate increases from SAWS due to wasted water.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

I would support a rail system if it would interconnect key parts of district two to the rest of San Antonio. St. Phillip's College connecting to the rest of the ACCD and UTSA are examples of interconnected transportation that would benefit the people of this district.

Why are you running for City Council?

I want to have an opportunity serve my community. I believe this district needs to be represented by someone who can fully devote to providing better constituent services to the people in it.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

I graduated from UTSA with a BA in History in December 2006. I traveled with a small group of volunteers to give aid to tornado victims in Joplin, Missouri in July 2011.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

I have been to two transportation meetings at the Via Metro Center listening to and testifying on transportation issues. I volunteer for the San Antonio Food Bank.

Describe your education.

UTSA: BA History, Dec. 2006. SAC: AA Liberal Arts 2004.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No, not married.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Ivy R. Taylor

Date of birth: June 1970

Position sought: San Antonio City Council District 2

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? 5 years

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? Excellent

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? I have not signed such a pledge.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? I will continue my focus on revitalization of East San Antonio and the inner city.

Do you support increased pay for council members? Yes

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?
Economic growth cannot come at the expense of the environment. Long term environmental impacts should always be considered.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

I might possibly support annexations, but only in the case that it would not hinder inner city revitalization efforts. Significant infrastructure investments are still needed in the inner city. I believe that policies should seek to balance growth between the core and outlying areas.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I support continuing protection of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone and careful consideration of development over the zone.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

Our conservation efforts have been extremely successful, but we need to continue focusing on identifying additional sources of water and not only relying on the Edwards Aquifer.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

Yes, I believe we should have a rail system.

Why are you running for City Council?

My initial interest in serving on City Council stemmed from my background as an urban planner and my experience as a City of San Antonio employee. My key area of interest continues to be inner city revitalization, however, given the diversity of my district and the entire city, my goal is to provide meaningful policy direction and excellent constituent representation for our growing city.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

Please see resume below.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

Please see resume below.

Describe your education.

Bachelor's Degree. Major-American Studies. Yale University. 1992

Master's Degree. City and Regional Planning. University of North Carolina. 1998

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? No

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. No. No.

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Professional History

August 2009-Present

Lecturer I

The University of Texas at San Antonio – Department of Public Administration

Provide instruction and guidance for undergraduate and graduate students in studies of urban planning, urban management, and nonprofit management. Supervise graduate student internships. Facilitate professional development seminars for managers at public service organizations.

June 2009-Present

City Councilmember, District 2

City of San Antonio

Represent a district of over 120,000 residents on the San Antonio City Council. Recommend and approve ordinances including a two billion dollar annual municipal budget. Chair of City Council Quality of Life Committee.

2004-2009

Vice President, Director of Resident Services

Merced Housing Texas, San Antonio, Texas

Responsible for overall development, planning and implementation of the Resident Services Program at Merced apartment properties. Develop programs and identify funding for social services focusing on children, health, education and financial literacy to benefit working families with limited economic means. Manage relationships with a variety of partner agencies and supervise professional staff.

1999-2004

Community Development Coordinator

City of San Antonio Housing and Community Development Department

Responsible for \$7 million annual HOME budget, under the direction of the Department Director. Trained, supervised, evaluated, and provided guidance to four professional analysts. Supervised development of contracts and agreements with funding recipients and assisted for-profit and nonprofit developers with project implementation. Served as Acting Department Director.

1998-1999 Community Development Analyst

City of San Antonio Neighborhood Action Department

Assisted developers and nonprofit organizations on inner city revitalization projects.

Summer 1997

Public Policy Intern

San Antonio Affordable Housing Association

Sponsored by National Congress for Community Economic Development

Produced Housing Access Directory. Assisted San Antonio Housing Trust Program Officer. Developed communications plan and interacted with a variety of organizations involved in affordable housing.

Additional Experience

1994-1996 Account Coordinator, Bates Advertising, New York, NY

1993-1994 Administrative Assistant, Broadcast Music, Inc., New York, NY

1992-1993 Administrative Assistant, Dentsu America, New York, NY

1988-1992 Summer Intern, AT&T, New York, NY

Education

1998 Master of Regional Planning

University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Concentration Area: Housing and Community Development

1992 Bachelor of Arts

Yale University

New Haven, Connecticut

Major: American Studies

Professional Affiliations/Community Activities

Current

Board of Directors, Healthy Futures of Texas (Board Chair 2011 and 2012)

Board of Directors, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of South Texas

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Greater Corinth Baptist Church

San Antonio CARES Advisory Board

Previous

City of San Antonio Planning Commission

Board of Directors, Martinez Street Women's Center

Leadership San Antonio, sponsored by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors, San Antonio Zoological Association

Commissioner, San Antonio Development Agency (Urban Renewal Agency)

Advisory Board, Our Lady of the Lake University Center for Women in Church and Society

San Antonio Business Journal's "40 Under 40" Rising Star Award 2004
Certified "Economic Development Finance Professional" by the National Development Council

Board of Directors, Haven for Hope of Bexar County

Advisory Board, St. Andrew's United Methodist Church Weekday School

Name: Leticia Ozuna

Date of birth: Nov 8, 1966

Position sought: City Council Representative-District 3

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I am proud to have been a District 3 homeowner in the Highland Park neighborhood for about five years and am committed to raising my family here on the South Side.

I grew up in a neighborhood inside Loop 410 and then departed from San Antonio as a young adult to pursue educational and professional opportunities in Austin and beyond.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Yes, for two reasons. First, the competitive field we are in as part of the Southwestern United States means that we have to offer incentives when there are more than 10 jobs at stake. Second, the City also competes with the surrounding smaller municipalities, and it's important that San Antonio remain a vibrant economic area in the center and be just as competitive as its periphery.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

Sheryl Sculley is very effective--as measured by city's bond rating and fantastically low borrowing costs, which bring tremendous benefits to taxpayers and residents.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

I have not signed a pledge. While I am not necessarily supportive of higher axes, I do not want to short change residents by doing so.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

I am focused on public safety, drainage/flood management, streets/sidewalk building and maintenance, as well as the care of community centers, libraries and other facilities in District 3 in order to best protect neighborhoods and families.

Our City's long-term health has to be judged on the strength of its core neighborhoods -- the property values, public safety, school quality, cultural vibrancy and the status of the infrastructure inside San Antonio -- in order to attract jobs, businesses and residents.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Yes, I support such a measure, but only if it is accepted and approved by voters. It could raise the level of participation and quality of the candidates for these positions.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

The two do not run counter to each other. Sustained growth requires water and a diversified tax base. A diversified tax base is tied, to a large extent, to quality-of-life issues, such as the protection of the tree canopy and natural environment. In the past, clear cutting has led to the loss of biodiversity and shade and can compromise the natural balance between vegetation, soil and water flows -- which result in greater water use going forward, further erosion and decreased air quality.

However, environmental policies cannot be too general given the different plant life, climate and environmental issues that affect the various districts of the City. The South Side, for instance, is dominated by brush--not trees. Overall, incentives go a longer way in protecting and/or improving our environment than disincentives do.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies?

Yes, but we have to keep in mind the issue of density in residential growth and the need to balance this growth with the cost of expanding City services. As for commercial growth, we should carefully consider the broader potential of economic development on our City and the direct impact of such development on our local communities.

Would you support any annexations?

Yes, however, we have to preserve our annexation frontiers and consider strategic annexation for the long-term economic health of the City and also keep in mind how effective the City can be in extending its services.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

A lot of key steps that we can take, we are already doing--such as enforcing the tree ordinance.

For its protection, the City also took responsibility for maintaining a piece of land in perpetuity (aka a Conservation Easement) and shared it with the Edwards Aquifer Authority; this land cannot be used for development in the future and represents an important part of our long-term strategy to protect the community's water source.

In addition, I plan to push for the restricted and/or discontinued use of coal tar-based sealants (as enacted by Comal County) due to the pollution/toxicity these sealants cause within water supplies and the air.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

Conservation is only a part of a wider strategy. The City must also identify future resources, such as a desalination plant using brackish water. In addition, it's vital to make SAWS more transparent and accountable in order to better understand the long-term investments this institution is making.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

Yes, mass transit and multi-modal systems are integral to the long-term success of any major metropolitan area for economic reasons; they also help a city remain sustainable. That being said, our bus system has effectively and economically served our community for years. I am committed to the long term viability of our bus system.

Why are you running for City Council?

I believe I have a diverse range of skills, talents and focus to share with my community. Also, I can make a plan and effectively execute it, because I have extensive managerial experience. In addition, I am a person who delivers on promises that I make.

Furthermore, I love San Antonio. I have had the honor to serve the City and the Southeast Side for over 400 days and want to continue to serve.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

- National Science Foundation Fellowship-Texas A&M University, 1992-1994
- Burlington North Santa Fe Emergency Response System-System Architect, 1996
- TEDx Speaker, San Antonio, 2012
- Proud parent of a Southwestern University Class of 2012 graduate
- Successful business owner-sold a software company to Hexagon, 2008
- First woman named Honorable Charro with the San Antonio Charro Association, 2013
- U.S. Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information Clearances, 2006-present

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

- Parks Bond Committee-District 3 Representative, 2012
- Highland Park Neighborhood Association-Board Member, 2011
- NOWCastSA-Volunteer, 2010-2011
- Girl Scouts-Volunteer, 2007- 2012
- Multiple PTA volunteer positions over the past 20 years
- SA 2020 participant

Describe your education.

- Thomas Jefferson High School, 1984, graduate
- University of Texas at Austin, 1989, graduate, B.A.
- Texas A&M College Station ,1992-1995, extensive graduate coursework and lab credits earned

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: **Gabriel Q. Velasquez**

Date of birth: **February 5, 1965**

Position sought: **San Antonio District 3 City Council Seat**

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? **46 Years**

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

I support providing tax abatements and incentives to companies creating new facilities and jobs in San Antonio as an economic development tool particularly in highly distressed urban and rural communities who may be eligible for a combination of grants, tax credits for business, bonding authority and other benefits. Further, I support policy requirements for receiving tax abatements and incentives such as hiring from designated target areas.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

On a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance a 8.0. The City Manager's delivery of services is good. Her office's ability to find savings and increase service delivery is good. However, her performance is difficult to rate without factoring in her decisions resulting from City Council mandates that veer away from the delivery of basic constituent services, which not only empowers but also burdens the Manager's office with discretion regarding cuts to services and outsourcing traditional COSA employment.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

I would sign a pledge to not raise taxes.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

My top priority will be reconstructing constituent participation and confidence through ground base community mobilization for Southside redevelopment.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

I believe the concept of pay for council members should be dealt with as a referendum.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

In my district the constituents are generally not in favor of urban sprawl and over development of rural southland. I share in that opinion. San Antonio is made up of different “living examples of planning” which offer my community the opportunity to build on Southside “uniqueness” and not repeat the same mistakes of neighboring communities. In the Southside the environment should lead the planning process.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

San Antonio should invest in a period of environmental-growth focusing pro-growth (i.e., population) toward inner city investment and smart density management. In terms of density management we should look inward. In terms of annexations, our philosophy should center on environmental protection.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone?

While I am not an expert on the subject, the Edward Aquifer Recharge zone should be held to the highest standard for protection which includes acquisition of property over the EARZ and strict application of zoning restrictions.

How would you address the city’s future water needs?

Develop grey water use regulations and further brackish water desalinization strategies to lessen the demand on the aquifer. Water sensibility for the most part is driven by affordability. As the need increases those who can afford water find access. We need to solve the problem of getting more water in the ground. Our attitude should be to increase water infiltration by reducing impervious cover which means protecting recharge opportunities such as the recent acquisition of property adjacent Government Canyon. Mitigation fees do not decrease impervious cover. Mitigation fees only allow those who can afford fee the right to increase impervious cover which decreases the infiltration opportunity. The most important opportunity we have is to limit new community development. The distribution of San Antonio’s water must also assure an equal distribution of water in its purest possible form.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city’s public transportation network?

I do think that a rail system should be part of the city’s public transportation network. It is important that San Antonio plan and prepare for a holistic rail system that begins with connectivity to the major service centers of our city (i.e., Medical Center, UTSA North, A&M South, the Airport, etc.). This endorsement of a rail system is not to be confused with a downtown street car.

Why are you running for City Council?

I have a strong personal history of service to the community spanning decades. My involvement has grown and my leadership capability has matured. My style of leadership is result-based and ground-up. I wish to deepen my commitment and to offer my continued service to the community.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

LEADER IN ADULT EDUCATION

Project Learn to Read, Adult Literacy and ESL - Past Board President
City of San Antonio Higher Education Authority - Past Board Member
Community Leadership Institute (CLI/Enterprise Foundation) - Citywide Adult Mentor
Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education - Faith Based Community Leader
-Congress on Urban Ministries

ADVOCATE FOR SENIOR CONCERNS

Avenida Guadalupe Association - Immediate Past Board Vice-President
Inner City Advocates of Judge Albert Pena, Jr. - Director

LEADER IN THE ARTS - CITY WIDE

Una Noche de La Gloria - Contemporary Art and Literature Organization, Chairman
City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs - Cultural Public Relations Committee
City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) - Cultural Arts Board Past Member
City of San Antonio Inaugural Luminaria Steering Committee - Founding Member
San Antonio Museum of Art Education Committee - Past Committee Member
US President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities - Cultural Arts Advisor

LEADER FOR CITYWIDE DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Cesar E. Chavez Legacy and Educational Foundation - Immediate Past Vice-President
National Assembly of Latino Leaders - Texas Committee Representative
City of San Antonio 16 de Septiembre Commission - Award Recipient
American Library Association - Minority Advisory Committee
American Institute of Architects - Minority Resource Committee

FAMILY AND YOUTH ADVOCATE

Annie E. Casey Neighborhood Transformation Initiatives - Capacity Builder
San Fernando Cathedral - Former Special Youth Minister
El Dia De Los Niño's San Antonio Host Committee - Founding Vice-Chairperson
-National Latino Children's Agenda

LEADER FOR SMART GROWTH IN THE INNER CITY

Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Program (NCRP) - Revitalization Coordinator
Southside Central San Antonio Community Plan - Neighborhood Planning Facilitator
San Antonio Downtown Neighborhood Plan - Neighborhood Planning Facilitator
University of Texas Vista Verde South Neighborhood Master Plan - Neighborhood Planning Facilitator
Working Together (COSA) - Action Planning Committee Member
Mexican American Unity Council - Master Plan Developer
Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee, San Antonio River Authority - Member

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

My civic activities and community involvement range a broad spectrum including having served as a special youth minister and lead youth mass lecture at the San Fernando Cathedral as a 4th degree Knight of Columbus; classroom mentoring of children and teens throughout San Antonio in SAISD and HISD; classroom mentoring of college students at Our Lady of the Lake University, UTSA, SAC, etc.; serving as the first city wide mentor for the Community Leadership Institute (CLI - an Enterprise Foundation and United Way investment); leadership and capacity building in San Antonio's public housing environments including Resident Council training, National Night Out planning and implementation; Neighborhood Association training and development; mobilization of neighborhood beautification and neighborhood cleanup initiatives to include the creation of a community tool shed in partnership with the City of San Antonio; partnership with San Antonio Fighting Back through the Weed and Seed project; and comprehensive advocacy as the Director of the Inner City Advocates with the late Judge Albert Pena, Jr.

Describe your education.

I received my early education in the Harlandale Independent School District at Gerald Elementary which later became Adams Elementary School. I then attended Harlandale Middle School and graduated from Harlandale High School in 1983 where I studied drafting and machining skills. After high school I continued machine training at Kelly Air Force Base in the Machine Shop Support Unit in Building 375 but resigned to pursue an education in Radio, Television and Film and Architecture at San Antonio College. While at SAC I served as the Jazz Music Program Director at KSYM 90.1 FM and also achieved AIA award winning status as an architectural design student. I transferred from SAC to the University of Texas at San Antonio where I earned my Bachelors of Science in Architecture. Community leadership training followed outside of the university classroom setting in grassroots leadership institutes including the Common Enterprise's Neighborhood Leadership San Antonio at the Willie Velasquez Leadership Institute, The Mind Science Foundation's San Antonio Talks (both under the leadership of Juan Sepulveda), and more formal community building training through the Mexican American Unity Council under the late Judge Albert Pena, Jr. and through the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Chicago, Baltimore, and San Antonio through its Making Connections family strengthening movement.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

My wife is an employee of the City of San Antonio. She is a Librarian.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Rebecca Viagran

Date of birth: June 25, 1974

Position sought: COSA City Council, District 3

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I've lived in District 3 my entire life, aside from time in college and my year abroad in Spain. I am a 4th generation Southsider and my family has lived in the area for at least the past 100 years.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

I do if it makes sense to the community and taxpayers, and if residents directly affected by the development support it. One of the responsibilities of a councilperson is to facilitate communication that bridges the divide between developers, businesses, government, and the community.

We can go down the list of projects to see how that has not happened in District 3 over the past 15 months, starting with Pecan Valley all the way through to potential developments in neighborhoods across the district. The community isn't happy, developers aren't particularly happy. We need to be working to ensure economic growth is fostered in such a way that the community and taxpayers are not taking a big hit while real, positive economic growth is generated.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

I respect the priorities she sets and the work she does to reach them. Cutting costs and running the city more efficiently every year is the job of the city manager, and she attacks those two goals relentlessly.

It is important to note that the City manager is not accountable to voters; the council is, and I would work to ensure there is more transparency in City government so we can all be held accountable.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

My pledge is to the residents of District 3, that I will represent their interests to the best of my abilities and that I will vote on council accordingly.

There are a lot of ways that you can pledge not to raise taxes but still increase the burden on taxpayers. A pledge doesn't solve that.

For example, I am opposed to the Nexolon deal that bails out what would otherwise likely be an insolvent company, but also gives away millions of dollars in valuable city assets and buys electricity at as not-yet-public rate.

My pledge is to ensure that tax dollars are not wasted or mismanaged so that no undue burden is put upon the residents, especially those on a fixed income. My pledge is to do what is right, fair and just.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

Overwhelmingly my top priorities are providing and improving basic services to a long underserved community. That includes streets, sidewalks, drainage, zoning, code enforcement, animal control, police and fire, etc.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

City council members should be able to make serving their one and only job so they can truly be held accountable to those who voted them into office. No one should be disqualified from service because they can't otherwise afford the time commitment. I also think that there's then the potential for an entirely new pool of candidates that will allow the best and brightest to serve the city.

Very modest pay – perhaps tied to the average per capita income in the city. This along with term limits could ensure that council members are 100% devoted to the work and free from conflicts of interest while keeping the cost of paying our elected officials at a minimum.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

I believe we can have a balanced approach while taking into account that the environmental needs of the next decade are only going to be more pressing. I support adding minimum energy and water efficiencies to the building code, encouraging xeriscaping and conservation, and other creative ideas that will relieve the growing pressure on our already stressed resources.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

Of course we should pursue pro-growth policies. We're already seeing some de facto annexations – dissolving BexarMet, for instance – and there is always going to be overlap between city and county government in some areas.

Over 75% of Bexar County is in San Antonio city limits and all of that is in the “metro.” If an annexation meant increased government efficiency and the residents wanted it, then I would, of course, support it. And, we must be certain that these annexations do not strain essential services like fire and police of existing parts of the city, and have a clear understanding of why and how we move forward.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

There is a lot of pressure on the aquifer now, and we all know that we're in a prolonged drought. Will the drought break or is this the new normal? I don't want to hope for the best and plan for the worst. We can protect our water supply by making common sense decisions, without overburdening developers and business if we're willing to look 5, 10, 20 years into the future instead of just to the next election.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

The top priorities need to be protecting what we have and conservation – there is no way around that. A strain on water sources is a problem felt practically everywhere in Texas at the moment. We need to maintain our level of conservation and work with all stakeholders to find new water source that will not outweigh the cost of fixing our own problem.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

Ideally, a rail system as part of the city's public transportation network would bring another means to get across the city along with tremendous potential for economic growth. This rail system needs to be equally distributed throughout the city. With tourism such a big part of our City's economy I'd like to see the rail system connect the mission Trail to the downtown area so that residents and visitors can be connected to the City's historical Southside.

Additionally, this can be part of a larger conversation of an intrastate rail system that could bring growth, safety, relief of traffic congestion and convenience for the I-35 corridor.

Why are you running for City Council?

As a lifelong resident of District 3, it is time to give back what has been invested in me. In this last year I have seen the need for accessible, accountable and responsive leadership, and that is what I intend to restore – to serve in capacity that understands needs of the community and one who is willing to talk with everyone, listen to the concerns, and unite the district. My life experience has led me to fight for seniors, veterans, women, children, the underserved, and those that need a voice.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

- Served as a volunteer with the American Red Cross at Ground Zero in New York City, November 2001
- St. Mary's University Presidential Award recipient, 2007
- Graduate of Las Comadres Para Las Americas Texas Public Policy & Civic Engagement Training Program, LBJ School of Public Affairs, 2007
- Worked with Inner City Ministries in New York City, 1996
- Panel Director for Hispanic Leadership Summit, Texas Diversity Council, 2009 - 2010
- Selected as a delegate for the Archdiocese of San Antonio to the National Encuentro for Hispanic Young Adults at the University of Notre Dame, 2006
- Lived, studied, worked with college students abroad in Granada, Spain, 2000-2001
- Advocate for comprehensive immigration reform in Washington, D.C. and Austin, Texas

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

- Board of Directors, Voices for Children-San Antonio, 2008 to present
- Community service and leadership development with St. Mary's University immersion trip to rebuild New Orleans, 2007
- Appointed to the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, 2011.
- Girls on the Run on Bexar County, Inc., volunteer
- Friends of the San Antonio Mission Library, member
- Board of Directors, Hispanas Unidas, 2012
- Member of National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), 2011

Describe your education.

Starting at kindergarten at St. Leo's Catholic School, I was greatly influenced by the community and inspired by Catholic Social Justice teaching. This continued to 8th grade. Then, with the sacrifice and investment of my parents, I was able to attend Providence High School in downtown San Antonio. It was here where I gained an appreciation for every part of the city because my friends were scattered throughout. It was at this all-female school where civic engagement and women in leadership became my own. It was at Providence where I saw that girls could lead at all levels – Principal, captain of soccer team, student council president, etc. After the foundation at St. Leo's and Providence, I was off to Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. It was my first time in a public education institution and this is where the term "minority" came to life, it was culture shock for me, being one of a handful of Latinos in a classroom. I intended to study Criminal Justice, but ended up receiving my Bachelor of Science in Geography & Urban Planning-Resource and Environmental Studies. After graduating in 1996, I returned to the Southside decided to continue my education and work full-time. In 2007, I earned my Master's of Public Administration from St. Mary's University.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: **Rey Saldaña**

Date of birth: **September 19, 1986**

Position sought: **Re-Election to City Council District 4 seat**

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I have lived in my District for my entire life except for the time I studied for my undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

I believe that tax abatements can be useful to attract investments to the city, as long as incentive agreements are conditional on certain targets, such as job growth and living wage agreement, being achieved by the companies receiving the abatements or incentives.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

I think Sheryl Sculley has proved an effective City Manager, as evidenced by her work on the implementation of the 2007 bond and the passage of the 2012 bond. The city's finances and Triple A rating are also positives notes to the management of our budget.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

I believe the city has established a credible track record for attracting quality companies that provide well-paying jobs to San Antonio residents, but I believe we have missed out on some great economic development opportunities because of our lack of a highly skilled and trained workforce. It is my hope that the next two years of my service include the development of a blueprint that outlines partnership with our community colleges, universities, and the private sector to develop a strategy around targeting specific growth industries that will position the city to compete on a more global level. We have great examples of such partnerships today, but they

lack the scale to reach the heights necessary to close our skills and achievement gap. I believe we have taken a step forward with early childhood education through “Pre-K 4 SA”, but we need to do more. Doing so will increase our city’s competitiveness and ability to provide high paying jobs to our current and future residents.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Yes, I believe that to attract high quality individuals who are committed to serving their districts and can devote the time needed to meet their residents’ concerns, the City should pay a salary comparable to what other cities pay councilmembers.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

Development is necessary for growth of District 4 and the City, but it must be done to protect natural resources like the aquifer. I would help maintain the size of the “recharge zone” for the aquifer to ensure the water can be replenished and protected. I will work to ensure compliance so that runoff from impervious cover does not pollute groundwater. This is essential to ensure water quality and residents’ safety.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

With a growing population, it may be necessary for the City to expand. However, the City should first ensure that it is able to provide essential services to residents, such as police, fire, and sanitation, over the current geographic area. As residents live further away, it becomes more difficult and expensive to provide services to them.

Annexation around District 4 would be prudent as it would be an effective tool to protect high potential growth corridors near our city limits that currently have no development standards or zoning. In previously developed communities around the city, I would support annexation in the case that a full fiscal review is measured on the city’s ability to provide effective services without diminishing existing city limit service.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I believe the current regulations governing the TCEQ review process for development in or around the recharge zone are necessary to protect the highly vulnerable aquifer from exposure to contamination. Legislation that dates back to the 1970s has been evolving with development, and I believe it must continue to keep pace with our city’s growth.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

Meeting the city's water needs includes a reliance on our current model of conservation, of which we are a national leader. However, we should continue our efforts to diversify our water portfolio beyond the Edwards Aquifer, which may be inexpensive but also subject to regulations and permitted rights that limit its access. As such, we must expand our Aquifer Storage and Recovery System, as well as opportunities to purchase new regional water supply from communities willing to sell their water. The completion of the integration pipeline on the southwest side of the county is important for future projects, such as a desalination plant. It is up to us as elected leaders to come up with creative ways to fund these projects with revenues that include federal and state opportunities to alleviate the burden on local ratepayers.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

I believe that the City of San Antonio requires and deserves a comprehensive transportation system, which includes improvements to all aspects of infrastructure. This means fixing roads, increasing access to bus service, and developing a plan for a comprehensive public transit system comparable to other major cities. Of course, rail networks are an expensive venture, but their value must be measured with their potential to facilitate access to every part of the city and stimulate business activities that generate revenue necessary to fund other essential government services.

Why are you running for City Council?

I am running for re-election to continue the work I embarked on when I first took office. My goal is to improve quality of life for all residents of District 4 and improve transparency and accountability in government services. There are many further projects I intend to undertake to benefit the residents of District 4, such as attracting a health clinic, partnering with Port San Antonio to attract new high paying jobs, improving transportation assistance for the elderly and disabled, addressing the stray animals issue, and ensuring that Pearsall Park becomes a landmark attraction for all District 4 and San Antonio residents.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

See subsequent answer

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

My community involvement defines my professional career to this point. This has been true as a high school student working to get a bookstore on the South Side of San Antonio and as a college student mentoring children with disabilities and

tutoring high risk students. I have translated that spirit into my work as a councilman while cleaning up graffiti around the district; knocking on doors to educate residents on responsible pet ownership and utility assistance/affordability programs; mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sister and Boys and Girls Club; speaking to middle school students about the importance of higher education; and raising money for class fields trips that expands students' horizons and excite a love for learning.

Describe your education.

I am a product of San Antonio's public school system. I attended Stanford University, where I earned two Bachelor's degrees and one Master's degree in Education.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: *Ricardo Briones*

Date of birth: *April 15, 1978*

Position sought: *City Council District 5*

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? *34 years*

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? *Yes*

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? *Good*

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? *No*

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? *Advocate for and represent my district to the best of my abilities.*

Do you support increased pay for council members? *Yes*

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

It is important to care for the environment, District 5 needs economic growth. I feel while growth is crucial, it should not be at the expense of the environment.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

My priority would be fixing and maintaining the inner city and District 5. It would depend on the annexation.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

Keeping current zoning regulations. Making sure status is doing their job in preserving and protecting the EA zone.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

Ensure that all regulations are being upheld in contracts as well as development.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? *Yes*

Why are you running for City Council? *To serve my community and my district.*

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments. *I represented the DREAM ACT students in their sit-in at Kay Bailey Hutchison's office.*

Describe your civic activities and community involvement. *San Anto Cultural Arts, Mission Trail Rotary Club, foster animals with Animal Rescue Friends*

Describe your education.

I have a Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law. I am a practicing attorney.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? *No*

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? *No*

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

I was arrested for public intoxication in 2004. The charges were dismissed.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: **Richard Cardenas**

Date of birth: **December 21, 1960**

Position sought: **City Council District 5**

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I lived in the district 52 years. I grew up in the district. I am a graduate from Lanier High School. I am member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. I am a third generation that chooses to have lived and raised my family in the district 5.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

The use of tax abatements and incentives are necessary tools to compete with other cities across the country for living wage jobs with benefits, I am in support of. My additional concern is to make sure that the residents of District 5 benefit wherever possible from these types of arrangements.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

Based on what I know of Mrs. Sculley at the present time, I believe that she is doing a commendable job. However, If elected I will work closely with Mrs. Sculley in meeting the needs of the citizens in District 5.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No, I have not signed a pledge not to raise taxes. If asked to sign a pledge it would need to be considered on its merits.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

Even though streets, sidewalks and drainage are important issues to address, I feel like we need to address the economic To address the social and economic issues that can improve the quality of life for the residents of District 5.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Eventhough San Antonio is one of the last large metropolitan cities that does not have council pay, this issues must be eventually decided by the voters

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

Smart growth is necessary for a dynamic community such as ours. I feel like we must balance our future potential with local history, culture and diversity.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

Pro-growth policies are important to San Antonio as we continue to grow our economic base. Annexations are part of a pro-growth policy; however, the infrastructure in District 5 needs attention of years of neglect. There must be a balance before we start providing services to new areas if we are still under serving areas such as District 5.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I would support the active use of the San Antonio zoning codes and other tools within our control to continue to insure that developments over the recharge zone do not negatively impact the recharge zone.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

I would continue to support the cities efforts in recycling water as well as SAWS current efforts to develop new sources such as the brackish water recycling and the use of water injection wells.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

I believe that this option should be considered as long as it is economically viable and it is available to the individuals that can benefit the most from it. I also believe that the placement of the rail lines should have the individuals who are to be served as the highest priority not special interest.

Why are you running for City Council?

Because after careful consideration and being approached by various members of the community, researching the current situation and personal reflection, I strongly feel that I have something to offer and want to contribute to the district that has been my home and community for the last 52 years. This is why I am running.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

- **President/CEO , Luke Eleven Ventures Inc.**
- **Owner/Operator, AVIS Car Rental Brooks City Base.**
- **Assistant Metro Director, Texas Restaurant Association; San Antonio.**
- **Director of Special Events, Avenida Guadalupe Association.**
- **Project Manager, Tobin Survey.**
- **40 Under 40 Rising Star, San Antonio Business Journal.**

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

- **Eucharistic Minister, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.**
- **Former board member, South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.**
- **Diez Sies de Septiembre, Commissioner.**
- **Athletic Booster Club President, Holy Cross High School.**
- **CYO President, San Juan de Los Lagos.**

Describe your education.

- **Graduate of Sydney Lanier High School.**
- **Attended University of Wisconsin.**
- **Attended Alamo Community Colleges.**
- **CBM Technical College.**

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Shirley Gonzales

Date of birth: June 2, 1972

Position sought: City Council, District 5

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

3 years

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Yes, when there is substantial advantage for the city. In particular, I support tax abatements and incentives to attract companies that bring high wage, high growth jobs.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

Sheryl Sculley's performance has been excellent.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No, I would not sign a pledge to not raise taxes. I am reluctant to support tax increases, but would consider an increase if the purpose has merit.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

My top priority is accessibility to my constituents. I will always have an open door policy and welcome citizens to discuss issues that need attention. However, on a monthly basis, I will have a "District 5 Citizens Open House" to make sure that citizens come by the office to discuss their vision and needs. I and my staff will attend Neighborhood Association meeting on a regular basis. I will ask any individuals that I have appointed to a board or commission to join me at the Open House gatherings so they too can share the issues before their boards.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

I believe council members should be paid a competitive salary; however, that issue is not one of my top priorities. City council is a full-time job, and by not paying a salary we miss the opportunity to attract citizens who have the talent and motivation to serve on council, but do not have the financial luxury to serve without a salary.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

I would strengthen protection of the environment by supporting efforts to direct development within the existing boundaries of the city, including District 5. The goal is to curb encroachment over the aquifer while making the heart of our city a better place to work and live. However, land use is not the only issue. I would also lead an examination of our transportation policies. My priorities are pedestrians, cycling, public transportation, and private automobiles, in that order. Pedestrians use the least resources; have the least impact on our environment; improve public safety by simply being on the street; and make significant inroads in promoting healthy living in our city. I will initiate policies to improve the desirability and functionality of not only public transportation, but also walking and cycling.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

No, I would not generally support annexations. I believe we should promote growth within our existing boundaries, particularly within the inner city. I am open to listening and supporting annexation if I am assured it will increase our tax base, and only if those new tax dollars are sufficient to provide full services to the new citizens without reducing services to the city's existing annexed sectors.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I support existing regulations and would support prohibitions on the use of tar based sealants in areas sensitive to the aquifer.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

The city will have to continue developing new water sources. However, water sources are limited, so the city must also promote conservation. Conservation is a higher priority than developing new resources.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

Yes.

Why are you running for City Council?

District 5 needs responsive leadership who will consistently listen to and represent members of the district while fostering economic growth. Having worked in a family owned business in District 5 for the past 20 years, I understand what businesses need to grow and prosper. The community benefits from healthy and stable businesses. There are many issues that need to be addressed to build an environment that is both attractive to businesses and improves quality of life. I have business experience, and will be accessible and responsive.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

*Owner, Bills Pawn and Jewelry
Citizenship award from City of San Antonio for Leads Online
Texas Association of Pawnbrokers board member
Four-time Ironman triathlon*

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

*Leadership San Antonio, class 36 2011
Leadership San Antonio Independent School District (2013)
Coach and Mentor, Youth Advocates Boxing 2012
Nearly \$100,000 donated for scholarships and higher education to St Mary's University, Our Lady of the Lake University, Lulac, Mauc, Project Quest*

Describe your education.

Bachelor of Business Administration (1995) and Master of Business Administration (2000) from St. Mary's University.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: David Medina Jr.

Date of birth: 12/26/1985

Position sought: City Council District 5

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? 26 years

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? Good

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? I have not signed a pledge, but would consider signing one depending on the specifics.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? Public Safety

Do you support increased pay for council members? Yes, but within current council line item allocations.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? Balanced economic growth in a healthy way is good for San Antonio.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support annexations? Yes, depending on areas and reasons why.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone? The current ordinances set in place.

How would you address the city's future water needs? I would encourage SAWS to look at efficiencies within the organization and create favorable contracts on new water leases.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? It would depend on the potential cost.

Why are you running for City Council? I am running for re-election in City Council District 5 to continue the progress. Over the last 4 years while representing District 5 I have been able to reduce crime, improve infrastructure and increase economic development.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.
The youngest official elected to City Council in San Antonio history

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

- District 5 Councilman
- Chair of the Public Safety Committee
- Governance Committee Member
- Quality of Life Committee Member
- Infrastructure and Growth Committee Member
- City of San Antonio Liaison for the Cesar Chavez March
- Past President of the Palm Heights Neighborhood Association

Describe your education.
High school graduate and first generation college student

Do you or your spouse have any business any business relationships or contracts with the City of San Antonio? No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? No

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. No

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Francisco Ramirez

Date of birth: 12-13-1977

Position sought: District 5 Chair

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? On and off my whole life, I was previously residing in the Medical Center district but as my mother's health became an issue I decided I would move my residence back to the old neighborhood to help with her daily needs. But as of recently I have been living "back" in this district for about 1.5 years but about 30 years total.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes but a majority of those abatements to the mom and pop businesses that are become even scarcer in this city. Money in San Antonio needs to stay inside San Antonio, we need to provide as much assistance to their survival in order to nurture the entrepreneurial side of our district.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? Let's not start with conflict, but I have my opinions on that matter.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? You can record my words with the utmost certainty, I will never raise taxes on the working lifeblood of this city; and companies must realize that the workforce in any given complex society is that lifeblood.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? Crime, safety, education, beautification. We need to reinvent our district; we need to rediscover the value of our history, our glory, and our pride that has long been forgotten.

Do you support increased pay for council members? I'll answer that in 2014 after the first year in my tenure.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? Re-investment in our infrastructure and we need to re-invent our thinking in alternative energy, we can't be using antiquated methods of yesterday to supply the power demands of today's San Antonio and nuclear is not the answer.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations? Only if the purposed annexed communities feel the same about being absorbed into San Antonio, while preserving much of the vital woodland areas that make up our outlying areas, and protecting our Edwards Aquifer then yes I believe San Antonio should continue to expand. There's more to this answer but I think this sums it up.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone? Absolute regard and protection, no exceptions! This is our source of vitality in this community; we are jeopardizing much of our livelihood with recent developments in construction and extraction initiatives that make this a paramount issue in my future political goals.

How would you address the city's future water needs? Dire. We don't have an adequate water source to support growth for much longer, so if we intend on continuing the growth of our city, we must invest in new water initiatives that will help relieve our sole dependence on the Edwards Aquifer. Again there is more to this issue, that will be part of my future agendas and with what representation I can bring to it in seat 5.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? YES! Denver uses one in their city, which has shown tremendous success and provides a quaint opportunity to enjoy reaching many of San Antonio's establishments efficiently through a dedicated passage system for both local and tourist usage.

Why are you running for City Council? It's about time, I can no longer stand aside as our current seat holder values not, his role as a central figure in community leadership. We need someone to stand up for District 5 not sit idly by.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments. Let's not get too vain, let's just say I took the long road to gain the experience, intelligence, education, and the support necessary to bring a formidable approach to a stagnant resolve in district 5.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement. I do what I can, as a new father but I do what I can to help bring awareness to social issues and health issues that

revolve around the health of our children. I have, as an independent media producer/artist I have helped many local artists in various pursuits to reach a greater audience by providing free media development and productions. I, along with others, have also helped to bring community together for families who have lost loved ones by providing independent music and art shows to help with financial assistance towards their loss. Many times I have donated many art pieces, which I had created myself and held in great financial regard as a means of providing these families additional monies by placing them in auctions for charitable proceeds.

Describe your education. Lifetime student. Currently engaging in my Masters of Education from Ashford University (4.0gpa). BA-Psychology, aspirations for a Jules Doctorate in Education preceding my Masters.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? Absolutely not, and we intend to keep it that way. No conflicts of interest in my camp

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? No, and we intend to keep it that way.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. I have been arrested for traffic tickets due in the municipal aspects of law, and only that. When I was unable to pay the fines I was responsible for, I volunteered for arrest and incarceration in order to square my debts with the city. As a person who values personal integrity, I believe that some of our greatest leaders have stepped foot into one jail cell or another. One day I hope to be recognized as one.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: **Greg Brockhouse**

Date of birth: **July 28, 1972**

Position sought: **City Council District 6**

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

- I have lived in District 6 for 19 years.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

- Yes I do. I believe tax abatements and incentives should be used with great care to build long lasting corporate and civic relationships. To attract the best talent, the best corporate partners, and the best opportunities for our citizens, our city government needs to make logical and educated choices in utilizing incentives. Questions I would ask include:
 - Does this make sense for the core values of our community? Living wages, corporate reputation, and commitment to our citizens' education and training would be key elements I would review.
 - What is the return on the city investment? How can we hold our corporate partners accountable to their public promises? Are "clawback" provisions available? If not, we need to examine applicability and enforcement opportunities.

I would also work diligently to ensure the entire community has equal opportunity to attract economic development through incentives. We should focus on expanding this economic development tool well beyond its current boundaries or focus areas.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

- She has performed in an exemplary manner and been a strong advocate for a focused, dedicated approach to accomplishing the core competencies of city government.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

- I have not signed a pledge to not raise taxes, nor would I do so. Any good leader is going to examine all options and make the necessary choices based on as many facts and tools available. I do not fear taxation. I fear misrepresentation and poor prioritization. Our government exists because of taxpayer input and taxpayer cash

flow. I would do all I can to ensure a clear and humble accountability for every tax dollar the city receives. This includes spending the taxpayer dollar with careful thought and respect.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

- My top priority would be perfecting the delivery of basic city services, street-by-street, neighborhood-by-neighborhood. This means working aggressively for the best interests of District 6. I will live in my community and ensure every neighborhood has specific project management plans for their individual needs. Regardless of what an elected official considers important for a community, I will ask questions of each neighborhood and deliver exactly what they want. This means detailed action items and precise planning. This detailed level of community involvement, to include memorializing in writing, will lead to Councilmember accountability for the taxpayer and voter. What the community wants, I will deliver. These plans will be my first priority and will be completed within six months of my election.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

- Yes I do. However, I also believe it relevant to take the vote to the people and allow them to drive the ultimate outcome. I would also examine the feasibility of ensuring any pay increase does not impact or benefit any sitting council member. Much like the vote for relaxing term limits excluded sitting members.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

- Our economic growth will take the lead in my decision making process. I have the utmost and committed respect for our environmental policy. From water to energy, our environmental policy is strategically linked to our economic success. My philosophy would be to not negatively impact our environment, however, I would balance the two with return on investment and trade-offs. It really comes down to a leadership process. There comes a point in any policy discussion where a decision has to be made to impact one or the other. That balance is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

- I would support annexation and our city growth policies should support expansion and outward growth. We should engage our development community and reach out to build our tax base and population. We should not fear sprawl. We should not contract our development back to the center city alone. This regression or contraction minimizes growth and does not address the core needs of our residents. I do believe we need a vibrant downtown and center city. But, the reality of the situation is simple: *most people do not want to live downtown*. I believe there are smart suburban renewal planning and growth policies that can and will support our expansion. Our

residents want to live by where they work. They want to put the best rooftop over their families and provide as much as income as possible to feed and care for themselves and their families. We must work in partnership with the development community and build a clear growth strategy that involves community commitment.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

- The protection of our primary water reserve is critical. The recent regulations passed and renewed in 2010 to protect and purchase property rights and easements through the use of a 1/8th cent sales tax would continue to receive my support. I would advocate for a greater look at pollution and the need for the city to protect the quality of water flowing to our community. Purchasing land is an initial stopgap measure; the long-term quality of water conversation is going to require strong political willpower to address. It does, however, have to be a multi pronged approach. We cannot continue to rely on the Edwards Aquifer as our sole source. We must branch out into water desalinization, purchasing water, and enhanced conversation programs by SAWS.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

- Please review my answer to the above question. I include addressing future needs in my response.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

- At this point and time, no. I am not in support of a downtown streetcar system and I believe it is always in the best interest of our government to take such large expenditures to a public vote. Streetcar is a starter conversation for a much larger rail system. We must perfect the basics of our transportation system first. This means our streets and infrastructure, our current VIA transportation, and our existing transportation political hierarchy. I have walked thousands of doors in District 6 and I have not encountered one voter in support of streetcar. If elected, I will focus on representing the needs of the community that put their trust in me. Voters are asking for the basics first and when that is perfected, then we can move on to larger projects requiring major, long term fiscal accountability.

Why are you running for City Council?

- I believe we can do better in District 6. I believe we can focus our attention on the needs of our community. I have worked with my opponent, Councilman Lopez. I have worked with his team and I consider them to be decent, hard working people. I simply believe their priorities are wrong and our District is suffering as a result. For instance, the City passed a \$596 million dollar bond package in 2012. Each District should receive roughly the same funding according to the City's rough proportionality provisions. District 6 is the 3rd fastest growing District in San Antonio...*we were dead last in bond funding, 10th place.* You only get a chance at

major bond funding every five years. You have to be prepared as a leader, as a team, and as a community. As I answered above, I will deliver exactly what the community wants, street-by-street, neighborhood-by-neighborhood. For District 6 to be dead last means our leadership priorities are wrong. I want to bring voice and debate to the City Council. I want to open the doors to the public and work as hard as possible to push for public, floor debate. I have had the honor to work at City Hall as a Chief of Staff and Constituent Services Manager for two different Councilmembers in two different districts. I have seen both the public face of debate and the behind the scenes machinery of City Hall. We can do much better to hold public officials accountable for debate, for ethical behavior, and for focusing on representing those that elected them. I intend to bring aggressive representation to City Hall for District 6 and I will do so with the humility and the knowledge of knowing my strengths and limitations. This is a family journey for me and a personal sacrifice to serve.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

- I have been fortunate to have great success and sometimes humbling failure to teach me lessons. Here are the items I consider noteworthy:
 - My conversion to Catholicism as an adult through my parish at Little Flower was a life-changing event. It taught me about personal sacrifice and faith.
 - I am honored to have served my county for over nine years on active duty in the United States Air Force. I was the recipient of commendations, leadership awards, and countless hours of leadership training. I was honorably discharged.
 - I am proud of bringing together a blended family and my wife and I consider our children and their relationships with each other to be one of our greatest personal accomplishments. We still have much work to do, but our kids and their stability gives us hope we can raise our children to be good adults and not repeat our mistakes in the future.
 - I am a graduate of John Jay High School in District 6.
 - I completed my bachelor's degree at Southwest Texas State University in Applied Arts and Sciences. My core focus of studies was Public Administration related.
 - I am a Certified Public Manager in Texas. This coursework was completed through the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service at Southwest Texas State University.
 - I have two Community College of the Air Force Associates degrees in Instructor Technology and Electronics.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

- Upon leaving the banking business in 2008, I spent time volunteering in my parish and working on community development. This included working in the Westside of San Antonio on countless community projects. From community cleanups to graffiti wipeouts, I spent many months focusing on non-profit service-oriented work. This volunteerism brought me to meet Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros and I

ultimately joined her team on a paid basis to manage the District 1 Constituent Services office.

- I am a Boys and Girls Club mentor. I am currently mentoring a young man at Rhodes Middle School.
- I have been a Community in Schools mentor.
- As mentioned above, I served my country in the Air Force.
- As mentioned above, I spent time as a Chief of Staff and Constituent Services Manager at City Hall. This opened many doors for me to volunteer and work throughout Districts 1 and 4. The projects are too numerous to list, but the work is completely civic related and community focused.

Describe your education.

- I am a graduate of John Jay High School in District 6.
- I attended college at the University of Montana, the Community College of the Air Force, and Southwest Texas State University. I ultimately completed my bachelor's degree at Southwest Texas State University in Applied Arts and Sciences. My core focus of studies were Public Administration related.
- I am a Certified Public Manager in Texas. This coursework was completed through the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service at Southwest Texas State University.
- I have two Community College of the Air Force Associates degrees in Instructor Technology and Electronics.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

- No we do not.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

- I have not filed for bankruptcy. As a 21-year-old single mother, my wife filed for bankruptcy. Neither of us has tax liens.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

- I have not been arrested, nor convicted of a crime.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

(Submitted, March 15, 2013)

Name:

- Raynaldo (Ray) Lopez

Date of birth:

- December 5, 1949

Position sought:

- San Antonio City Council District 6

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

- Resided at same address since 1984 at which time address was in Bexar County.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

- Yes. It is important that all incentives have economic impact requirements like salary levels, specific commitment of local hires and be in targeted industries.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

- Excellent

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

- I have not and would not sign such a pledge.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

- Continue to follow the SA2020 strategies with a specific focus on Education and Transportation. Additionally, job creation and economic development must remain high, long term priorities.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

- Yes. The current city charter "job description" for council members does not merit council pay, however over time and with the advent of single member districts, the public expectation has significantly changed the "job function" making it a timely discussion.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

- Open dialogue with all stakeholders including environmental organizations, industry leaders and the general public should periodically be conducted to insure that previous ordinances are having the expected impact and allow for adjustments to be made to correct "unintended consequences" or "missed opportunities".

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

- I support a pro-growth *management* policy and have led in the discussion of the creation of an Annexation Strategy. We must define the most and least likely areas for annexation and establish a general timetable. In the areas that are not targeted to be annexed, we should collaborate with the county and develop agreements using “Memorandums of Understanding” to address the delivery of services.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

- We have a good set of policies in place, including Tree Ordinances, and Development over the Aquifer recharge and contributing zone. Additionally, over the past two years, the city and county have managed the Sector Planning Process to get regional consensus on growth management. I also believe that we, as a public, are putting our money where our mouth is by approving for a 3rd time, a 1/8 cent sales tax for aquifer protection and flood management in our linear creek systems.

How would you address the city’s future water needs?

- There are several levels to effectively addressing our water needs. It begins with water conservation and education. I support the current water restriction approach and believe that it should be year round. We also have to manage the water discharge as it relates to sewer and wastewater management. The recent SAWS rate increase is a clear indication of what the costs can be as they relate to managing our water discharge. The third leg of the stool is the notion of becoming “water manufacturers”. We should continue to invest in regional efforts that help us be less dependent on the Edwards, i.e., Desalinization, Water Capture and Storage.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city’s public transportation network?

- SA2020 identified Transportation as one of the most critical topics in our community’s future needs. The current approach of a Multi-Modal system is most practical. That system includes an urban core where all methods of transportation are used, including but certainly not limited to streetcar and a line feeder system eventually tying the urban core to the suburban and rural clusters. In addition to this mass transit approach, it is vital that we continue to invest in our highway network by building more lanes. Few people argue the need for more roadways however the financial implications are hot topics. I do not support converting existing non-toll lanes to toll, however it is critical to identify a fiscally constrained highway plan; Managed Lanes (tolled) are an integral part of the financing plan.

Why are you running for City Council?

- Over the course of my lifetime, I have had a strong commitment to civic service. In my time prior to retirement, I was fortunate to work for an employer that expected its managers to be involved in the community and I was able to serve at many levels throughout my career. That experience has allowed me to be effective at governance which I have been able to utilize in my first two terms on council. While on council, not only have I have had a front row seat as our city evolves, I have been an active participant and assumed leadership roles in our city. I want to continue the service for the next two terms and help make our city even greater.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

- Married to High School Sweetheart Evelyn for over 42 years and we have 4 grown children and 9 grandchildren.
- Retired as AT&T Director in 2009 with over 34 years of service.
 - Multiple performance awards including AT&T's Leaders Council
 - Selected to the Who's Who Among Hispanic's in Texas and US.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

- Served on the Northside School Board from 1990 to 1999 and was Board President for two terms; President of the Bexar County School Board Federation; Trustee on the Education Service Center, Region 20 Board of Trustees.
- Served on the Texas Governors Task Force on Teacher Readiness and Preparation.
- Currently serve on the San Antonio City Council, completing 2nd of a potential 4 terms.
- Represent the City of San Antonio on the following Mayoral Appointed Boards:
 - Intergovernmental Relations Committee - Chairman
 - Educational Excellence Committee – Chairman
 - San Antonio Public Housing Trust – Chairman
 - Economic Development Committee – Board Member
 - Infrastructure and Growth Committee – Board Member
 - Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Vice Chairman
 - Lone Star Rail Commission – Board Member
 - Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) – Board Member
 - Police & Fire Pension Fund – Trustee
 - Free Trade Alliance – Board Member
- Upon taking office in 2009 I collaborated with the community to develop a District 6 Strategic Plan focused on Infrastructure, Economic Development and Public Safety.

- Most proud of:

- District 6 Senior Center opened in July 2011 – Now has over 4,500 members and serves over 240 meals daily.
- \$3M dollars in 2012 bond of a NW Youth Center and \$1.4M for a new NW Public Library site.
- Aggressive Linear Park initiative throughout the Leon Creek Watershed.
- Growth of D-6 Homeowner Associations and Community Group collaboration.

Describe your education.

- Graduated from Harlandale High School in 1968 and attended San Antonio College before entering into the US Army.
- Attended the US Army Engineering program and served as a Power and Generation specialist in the Army.
- Continued my college career after my military duty and attained 54 hours towards a business degree, but never graduated from college.
- In my 34 years at AT&T, I obtained management certification by attending a multitude of AT&T Management Training.
- In mid career, I obtained my AT&T Certification as a Network Design Consultant and achieved Sr. Consultant status.
- Entered into the Advanced Management program with AT&T and was promoted to Director.
- Achieved School Board Leadership certification through the Texas Association of School Boards.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

- No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

- No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

- No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name:

Steve Shamblen

Date of birth:

January 28, 1961

Position sought:

City Council District 6

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I have been living in the District for about eight years and my family has been living in the District for about fifty years.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

I think the city should continue to offer incentives to businesses and I also think that San Antonio needs to apply penalties to companies that fail to meet their obligations.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

Satisfactory.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

My top priority would be to try and initiate or implement any of the jobs projects that I have promoted in my campaign so that jobs can be created for people as soon as possible.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

No, I think we need people on our council that are going to want the job for \$20 because their sense of purpose and drive often differs from those that want to be a part of the council for the money, and that difference provides a balanced dynamic to the decision making process.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

I think economic growth from the environment should not be accomplished using unsustainable or unfriendly environmental practices.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

I am For the city pursuing some pro-growth policies and I would consider support for annexations on a case by case basis.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?
I support the plans and programs of the Edwards Aquifer Authority as well as all State & Federal laws and regulations that protect the aquifer.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

San Antonio Water System needs to continue their efforts to invest in new, reliable and affordable supplies of water for our future while maintaining affordable rates for the customers.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

I am For a city wide rail system with it's lines in the middle of our highways and I am For the VIA Downtown Streetcar Project even though it's going to cost \$180 to \$200 million for 5 miles of downtown rail.

Why are you running for City Council?

I want the people's vote because I want to use the office to work to create jobs from projects (a. CPS manufactured home solar systems project, b. Loop 410 overhead solar project, c. San Antonio to Houston pipeline) that will bring us closer to energy independence, be investments for our economic future, improve our overall quality of life and will be a benefit for our environment.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

A few noteworthy accomplishments in my life include;

- (a) receiving Honors and Highest Honors Certificate while attending school,
- (b) receiving Certificates of Appreciation from Pennsylvania Power and Light company for my quality control contribution in establishing the nations first computerized Electric Facilities Database to manage their state-wide power grid,
- (c) receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Dept. of Interior National Park Service for my voluntary contributions to the Volunteers In Parks Program.
- (d) although I failed to win, placing my name on the ballot and campaigning for City Council District 6 during the 2011 San Antonio General Election was a memorable personal accomplishment for me.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

I have been a pro-marijuana activist in the San Antonio area since 2000. I founded and managed a National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws group in San Antonio from 2000 to 2005.

In 2010 I founded the San Antonio Chapter of the TeaPot Party, a chapter of the 501(c)(4) non-profit organization TeaPot Party.

I became a member of the Board of Directors of the TeaPot Party in 2011 and I was elected Treasurer shortly after I joined the Board. I was re-elected for a second year as Treasurer of the TeaPot Party in 2012.

In 2011 I participated in the activities of Occupy San Antonio.

My most recent involvement with the community was in 2012 when San Antonio TeaPot Party teamed with another local group named 'Good Things' to organize an event named 'Activist Appreciation Day' to show appreciation to the everyday community activists of San Antonio that carry on their work mostly unrecognized.

Describe your education.

I am a high school drop-out that later attained a G.E.D. and three technology degrees for Aviation, Electronics and Architectural Drafting and Design. I have also earned certificates in areas of study such as: Microsoft Office programs, Lithics (Reading Stone Artifacts), Food Service Sanitation, Deming Quality Philosophy and Parent Education

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

Yes. I was successfully rehabilitated after completing a probation sentence 29 years ago for a crime that occurred.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: John Edward Barfield Jr.

Date of birth: September 12, 1951

Position sought: District #6 City Councilmen

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

21 years

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

I do think incentives for companies who come to San Antonio and promise so many jobs. That helps our economy in San Antonio and the unemployment rate in the United States. What I don't support is the companies not fulfilling their obligations by not hiring the amount of people they say they were going to hire and still obtaining the benefits of receiving tax abatements. This is not fair to the tax payers. I know the city manager stated that they were looking at taking way a portion of the tax abatement but that is unlikely this year.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

I think the city manager has done a reasonable good job because San Antonio has avoided the hard hit recession that has hit many other large cities with over a million people.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No I would not sign a pledge not to raise taxes because our economy is not only based on the United States. If Europe, China or other parts of the world economy fails it will affect the United States and we may be asked to do a little bit more. Also if we need additional schools we may need to raise property taxes to assure that our children are able to receive the best education possible. Now I am not naïve to believe that taxes are the answer to every problem.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

I have talked to many of our District 6 residents and their top concerns have been the streets in the neighborhood some of them are very bad. The second thing I would address would be CRIME in several neighborhoods.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Yes I do. If it's a fulltime job the councilmen should receive \$20,000-\$40,000 a year but no more because if the pay is good a different group of people will run for office and they may care more about the money than about the district they represent. On the other hand candidates like myself run not because of the money but because they care.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

I think economic growth is good and we need the growth but the environment is more important. We must 1st think of the environment and then economic growth. Just this year the weather has changed causing scientists to point to Global warming due to the depletion of the O-zone. In Iceland the huge lumps of ice are melting threatening polar bears and other animals in that part of the world.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

Yes I think San Antonio is rapidly growing and will need the property taxes. Many of those who reside in Bexar County benefit from the city of San Antonio.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?
Regulation 713.011 deals with regulating certain activities that have the potential to pollute the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone

How would you address the city's future water needs?

The city council has recently addressed the issue by setting up stringent guidelines but reasonable conservation times to water lawn once the Aquifer reach a certain level.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

No! While I am not against progress we have spent millions of dollars on the new buses carry 2 to 3 times more passengers then the older buses. The rail system is very expensive to build but economical once constructed. When I was stationed in Japan, Germany, Washington D.C. and New York I saw the railing system 1st hand and it worked well. In Houston it's took a while for it to be successful.

Why are you running for City Council?

I am running for city councilmen because I want to be a part of making District #6 one of the fastest growing section and the safest part of town in San Antonio. I really care about people and I am willing to give all I can just as I did for our country for over twenty years. It's the right thing to do.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

Over 20 years in the United States Air Force.

Elected member of Robin School Board in Warner Robins, Georgia

Court Appointed Special Advocate in Warner Robins, Georgia. Former manager of al of bexar county Problem Solving Court

State Certified Community Supervision Officer

State Certified Residential Supervision Officer

Certified Strategies for Case Supervision

Former Group Facilitator by National Curriculum and Training Institute

Training for program/caseworker at Crosspoint Inc.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

Democratic Prescient Chairperson

Cellular on Patrol in the Timber Ridge Subdivision.

Describe your education.

E. Evan Worthing High School, 1974

Associate in Applied Science, 1994, Community College Of The Air Force

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, 1989, Fort Valley State University

Master of Art Degree in Counseling Psychology, 1992, Fort Valley State University

Attended Our Lady of the Lake in order to test for License Professional Counseling 2002

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

Yes

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Cris Medina

Date of birth: 01/14/1980

Position sought: San Antonio City Council, District 7

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

7 years

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Yes. San Antonio has effectively used abatements and incentive packages to attract and retain large employers. We must receive hard commitments on jobs and investments on the part of the business to protect the taxpayer's investment. Additionally, I support new programs to help existing businesses grow and expand. Large employers are good for our economy, but nearly 3 in 4 jobs are produced by small and family-owned businesses and they deserve access to economic development programs to help them expand and grow.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

Sheryl is respected at City Hall and around the country and has helped guide us through a historically difficult economic period. On balance, the City Manager has done a good job. I have a good working relationship with the City Manager and she has helped make many District 7 priorities the priorities of the City budget, and I am grateful for that. As with any large organization, the City is not going to run flawlessly. What is important is that we directly and thoughtfully acknowledge any deficiencies and devise new strategies or processes to make certain we enhance efficiencies.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

I have not, nor would I at this point. Public servants need to be unencumbered to make tough decisions regarding the budget. My record is working and voting to keep taxes as low as possible and oppose unnecessary rate hikes. As the economy continues to improve and property values rebound, I am hopeful that we would be able to cut taxes. But, it would be inappropriate and irresponsible to commit to a specific course of action until all the numbers are in and we weigh the needs of the City versus the tax dollars available

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

My top priority is improving the quality of life for the families I work for at City Hall. That means enhancing our public safety, investing in our neighborhoods, and fostering a strong economy that creates jobs. I authored a CCR to create the first comprehensive anti-graffiti ordinance in San Antonio history. I authored a CCR to create the "Safe Streets SA" program to make our streets and sidewalks safer for kids, families, and cyclists. I support a "local preference" for bidders on city contracts to help keep more of our tax dollars here at home and identifying for removal any barriers to entry for small businesses seeking to provide goods and services to the city.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Twenty dollars isn't adequate compensation for the 40-60 hours per week most members dedicate to official business. It limits who can afford to serve and is really the last lingering element of the Good Government League's policies. Voters chose to reform term limits and I think that it should be up to the voters to decide on greater compensation. Were it to pass, I do not think that it should apply to existing council members. It would be inappropriate for existing members to vote themselves a pay increase.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

We have access to the new technologies and processes that allow us to simultaneously grow and protect the environment. As green technologies mature and progress we will have access to many more new ways to create balance. And, by continuously reviewing best practices from around Texas, the nation, and the world, we can adopt development standards and mitigation strategies that will adequately balance the two. Building out our downtown and inside the loop areas we can accommodate new businesses and families without increasing impervious cover or adding CO2 pollution from idling cars. Asking homeowners and business owners to participate in xeriscaping, solar, and ride sharing programs will help aggregate individual efforts into a larger community effort to encourage existing development and future growth to take ownership in creating a balance.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

Yes. Growth is inevitable, but controllable. I see "pro-growth" as bigger than annexation. We should consider growing what we already have to its highest and greatest use before annexing new areas haphazardly. Annexations can be beneficial to the City, but the wrong annexation could be damaging and costly. I support a methodical, analytic approach to annexation to properly evaluate the return on investment and employ a cost/benefit analysis.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

In the past several years San Antonio, SAWS, EAA, and the region as a whole have greatly increased development standards and conservation easements to reduce the impact of growth on the aquifer. To truly protect it and manage our growth, we need to turn to new technology and innovation to reduce waste, reduce consumption, and minimize pollution. Ultimately, San Antonio cannot protect the recharge zone alone, it is crucial that we employ cooperative agreements to coordinate with all areas that impact the aquifer. San Antonio should be placed on the leading edge of employing new technologies and innovations that reduce impervious cover, utilize recycled water, and conserve through efficiency.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

SAWS recently outlined several new strategies to harness new resources to support our future growth that I supported. It is imperative that we embrace the concept that a gallon of water saved is a gallon of water we do not have to source. Relatively new technologies such as no-flush urinals for public facilities and dual-flush toilets and tankless water

heaters for residences can save millions of gallons of water each year. Conservation stands—for now—as the cheapest means to stretch our existing sources farther.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

The most successful cities around the world that are economic centers employ some variety of a rail system. These systems are costly to construct, and costly to operate and maintain. While rail may prove to be a long-term goal for specific routes around San Antonio, I find VIA's new "Primo" bus service to hold great potential that is cost effective, more efficient, more modern, and able—for the most part—to use existing infrastructure. Any consideration of rail should come after a lengthy study that justifies the cost by verifying a need and probability of fast adoption by riders.

Why are you running for City Council?

I am running to make certain that the voices and values of the taxpayers of District 7 are heard at City Hall. I am running to make certain that our sidewalks, roads, bridges, and drainage are adequately built out. I am running to make certain our streets are safer by adding police officers, SAFE officers, a new fire station, and giving local neighborhoods new tools to reduce speed on residential streets. I am running to make certain that small and family-owned businesses are nurtured so that they can grow and thrive, not choked out by red tape, burdensome regulations, and increasing rates. I am running to make certain that every child in San Antonio has a level playing field and a fair shot at getting a good education from pre-k through college.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

*Husband and Father
U.S. Military Veteran and Air Force Reserve Officer*

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

*City Councilmember, District 7
City of San Antonio
Appointed to the following City Council Committees:
Governance
Intergovernmental Relations
Educational Excellence
Economic & Community Development
Police & Fire Pension Board*

*Volunteer with the following organizations:
Meals on Wheels of SA
Salvation Army of SA
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of SA*

Describe your education.

*HS Diploma, Somerset High School
AA, Community College of the Air Force
BA, UTSA*

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No, and No.

**S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire
March 15, 2013**

Name: Dr. Gloria Rodriguez

Date of birth: July 9, 1948

Position sought: City Council Representative for District 7

1. How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

While I was born on Colima Street near Guadalupe Catholic Church and then moved to the Las Palmas area where I graduated from the Edgewood Independent School District, I have lived in District 7 for 32 years. This is where I lived before I got married, and where I raised my children. My children were baptized at St. Paul's and St. Dominic's Catholic churches, and two of my children graduated from Marshall and O'Connor High Schools. My husband has played in the Hispanic choirs for both St. Brigid and St. Paul's churches in District 7 for over 30 years. We belong to the Donaldson Terrace Neighborhood Association.

2. Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Yes, I do believe in providing responsible tax abatements to encourage economic development. The abatements should contain certain responsibilities and assurances, such as providing fair wages and adequate working conditions. This abatement should also have a set time for them to stay in San Antonio and be honored. For example, the Hyatt Regency received a \$207 million subsidy from the City of San Antonio and the Hyatt employees are now protesting and boycotting because the Hyatt is replacing longtime employees with minimum wage temporary workers and imposing dangerous and health-threatening workloads on those who remain. They were even cited by the Federal Government for these practices. This is not good economically for the citizens of San Antonio who work at the Hyatt nor is it good public relations for San Antonio. I believe that if there is a breach of agreement from the company that received the Tax Abatement, then the company should return a proportionate amount of the tax abatement.

3. How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

The current council and Mayor Castro have given City Manager Sculley a high evaluation rating based on their set of measurements and goals. I would like to review her performance based on measurements and goals related to District 7. Our District has many issues that need to be addressed, such as traffic congestion and aging infrastructure in our inner city, including drainage issues, lack of curbs, sidewalks, many pot holes in

streets and traffic flow issues. Recently there was a death of a young six year old child near 1604 and the second death of a senior citizen on Fredericksburg Road related to traffic control issues that the respective communities kept asking for years to be addressed. Unfortunately, they got addressed only after the deaths occurred. Also, the exit ramp from Loop 410 to Bandera was not designed well and causes terrible traffic congestion. The City Manager should be evaluated based on how well she helps the City Council Representatives address issues and concerns of residents in their Districts, as well as address city-wide issues, such as water and electricity. I intend to have good communication with the City Manager and her staff, and to work with the City Council to address the needs and concerns of District 7.

4. Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No, I would not want to sign such a pledge.....for I believe that one has to be open to all options in addressing the myriad of complex problems and issues of a major city like San Antonio. However, no taxes should be raised if the city is operated efficiently and effectively and we can assure the residents that every dollar is well spent and accounted for. Before considering raising taxes, I would bring in my business experience effectively managing a large organization. I would cut costs through attrition and elimination of duplication and inefficiency. I would also try to reduce cost or augment the city revenue by maximizing partnerships and utilizing community resources that could be pooled together. I have many years of experience in grant writing and in obtaining funds from philanthropic, corporate and other government entities that can be used to enhance needed services that impact District 7, such as with mass transit systems, or securing New Market Tax credits for renovating historic buildings. All of these measures would bring added revenue to the city and District 7. Before raising taxes for an initiative, for example, Prek4SA, a strong enough case should be made to the people for the need and the desired outcomes that will benefit the city; be well implemented, and well evaluated. I support this initiative and, with my Doctorate in Early Childhood Education, I plan to be involved to ensure its successful implementation, so that the taxpayers would know that their increased taxes were well spent and produced the desired outcomes.

5. What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

To create

My top priority is to work with many stakeholders and the residents to make District 7 a vibrant place in which to live, work, play. I want to create communities that are safe, and rich of culture and vitality; that have adequate housing, parks or green spaces, gardens, walkable streets, sidewalks, curbs; bicycle and exercise paths, and community centers where diverse people can come together, as neighbors, to meet one another, to learn, grow and to get the services they need. I will be especially attentive to the safety,

protection and wellbeing of our most vulnerable individuals in our community: children and elderly. I will do whatever I possibly can to be responsive to the people's needs to prevent deaths or injury related to traffic issues, floods, crime, the environment and public safety, ensure clean affordable air and water, and to have green spaces, arts, parks. The key to any successful city is to nurture and educate its children. This relates to the future workforce and the development of our future leaders and citizens. I will be involved in PreK4SA and will work with the many educational partners to promote parenting and pre-readiness skills, reading skills, literacy and an increase in high school and college completion.

As part of carrying out my priority, I will be open, accessible, transparent, responsive, respectful and accountable.

6. Do you support increased pay for council members?

Yes, I do. It is not right that City Council representatives get paid only \$20 per meeting, which was established in the City Charter in 1950. County Commissioners, who are not involved with the complex urban issues that the City Council is involved in, are paid over \$100,000 and have the power to increase their pay without public approval. The city council pay has not even kept up with inflation. The \$20 a meeting, capped at \$1,040 a year in 1950 would be \$9,000 annually today due to inflation alone. I propose that this be corrected. It is the City Council that is elected by the people to identify, address and solve the complex urban problems such as traffic flow, water supply, electrical capacity, economic development, and safety for over a million people. If the City Council representatives are the ones that are to be held accountable, then it is time that they join other cities like Dallas and Houston in compensating their government officials, beginning at least with bringing the \$20 a week stipend established in 1950 to today's value at \$9,000. I would even be ready to propose to match what Dallas or Houston is for future City Council persons, even if I and those voting with me would not benefit from my proposal. I ran for City Council knowing that it only pays a \$20 stipend per meeting. I am running to serve, to make a difference, to address and solve the concerns and issues of District 7. I can afford to do so, but, service to the people should not be based on whether you have the means. Public servants should be independent decision makers, and be able to make a living; otherwise, they may find themselves beholden to special interests and not serving the best interest of the people or the City as a whole. At the end, not increasing the pay of City Council individuals can be more costly to all of us.

7. What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

I applaud the work of Mayor Phil Hardberger in addressing this issue in the Mission Verde Plan. It is based on a sustainability principle that reinforces the importance of what we do today for the environment will have a positive effect on today's and tomorrow's economy, or vice versa. Both are important and can be harmonious. "Saving energy saves money. Renewable energy creates economic self-reliance. Fewer

cars on the road mean less pollution, which carries its own economic costs. A green infrastructure, powered by green technology, creates jobs.” (Mission Verde) The two can coexist, but, we need to make sure that any economic development that is proposed will be done responsibly and consider the safety and welfare of its citizens and the environment.

We have limited water, declining oil reserves, and the threat of global warming is already being manifested around the world. Government, business and the people are all stakeholders that need to invest in green technology, energy and water conservation, renewable energy, efficient transportation and smarter homes, buildings and communities. This will save money, create jobs, protect the precious air and water and conserve our planet’s resources.

The price and regulations necessary to protect our environment are essential for our existence and for our future economic progress. We need to have responsible economic growth. One example is not removing all the trees because that affects the air we breathe; another is not having too much impervious cover because that affects the flow of rain water into the community. We need to consider a transportation system that will reduce the carbon dioxide or green house gas emissions in the air because it is in our self-interest to do so, and there is not enough fossil fuel. Therefore, we need to develop, plan and propose policies and strategies that would invest in new green infrastructure, green businesses and green technology, such as solar, wind, geothermal. Develop building codes on new residential and commercial construction that produce zero carbon emissions, expand weatherization and conservation measures, as well as provide tax incentives for clean and green tech companies. It is important to educate the public about the importance of these sustainability measures.

8. Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

I believe that San Antonio needs to put a temporary halt to annexation and further growth to the North because we are at a point where we cannot afford to provide the needed services to any new areas. Urban sprawl through annexation is already adversely affecting the quality of life in the City of San Antonio. The attention needs to be focused on providing more adequate service to the citizens of San Antonio, like better traffic control, better police and fire protection, repairing old infrastructures, curbs, sidewalks and streets, better transportation system and strengthening our communities throughout the city, especially District 7. I applaud the Mayor for promoting economic development in the central city. We cannot have an abandoned and neglected downtown. However, I want that same kind of mix-use of economic, housing and entertainment development for the residents of District 7 and for all Districts throughout the city.

For too long, San Antonio grew to the North, while ignoring the inner city and downtown. Many streets were not adequately maintained, aged infrastructure have caused many pipes to break and seep precious drinking water. Many of the communities in District 7 do not have basic curbs and sidewalks. There needs to be a balance in the growth to make up for years of neglect. We cannot use the portion of the budget that is

to be used for District 7 to address these needs to go to District 1. We cannot create a transportation system that will accommodate only one group in our society, or only one sector of our community. Growth and progress needs to be balanced and fair. I have lived inside Loop 410 and have seen that children and seniors in these areas have to walk or drive their wheel chairs in the streets because of broken sidewalks...or people's foundation affected because of drainage and lack of curbs. I have also lived outside Loop 410, and have noticed how unplanned sudden growth affected traffic flow and produced congestion, affecting quality of life. It would take many of us 1 ½ hours to get to downtown because of the traffic congestion.

Pro-growth policies should include: transparency and getting input from the citizens that will be impacted by that growth. Planned growth should not occur behind closed doors with input only from special interests.....the interest of the people need to be valued, sought and respected. Improvements that are promised in a Bond project or economic development initiatives need to be honoredand not changed without the knowledge or consent of the people that voted for them or that will be affected by these changes.

9. What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I would support those regulations recommended by AGUA:

- a. Regulating the impervious cover limits over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone to no more than 20%.
- b. Increasing buffer zones for significant recharge and critical environmental issues. The setback would be between 100 to 400 foot setbacks, depending on the floodplain that could potentially affect pollutants into the Aquifer.
- c. Prohibiting hazardous material and activities over the recharge, transition and contributing zones. This includes the storage and transport of hazardous materials over the Edwards Recharge Zone.
- d. Use the zoning powers to enforce other regulations to protect the aquifer, prohibit hazardous land uses in the contributing zone, and to create low-density residential uses.
- e. Educate the public about the importance of protecting the Aquifer, and the dangers of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers to our mainwater source.
- f. UDC (Unified Development Code) permitting: Require submissions of geological reports with Master Development Plans. Tighten permit expiration rules to reduce grandfathering.
- g. Improve design and maintenance of water quality basins.
- h. Implement prudent fiscal policies, such as ban on tax incentives for businesses locating on the Recharge Zone and sensitive areas of the Contributing and Transition Zones.
- i. Acquire sensitive recharge and watershed areas to protect public health and the safety of our water supply.
- j. Also, support regulations to conserve water to maintain the Aquifer levels.

10. How would you address the city's future water needs?

I would address the city's future water needs through:

- Water Conservation
- Drought Restrictions
- Diverse, Adequate and Affordable Water Supplies
- Increase underground water storage to use during drought
- Incentives, Rebates for water efficiency Programs
- Effective planning and projecting water requirements
- Protection the Edward's Aquifer
- Education

Right now, SAWS has the following existing water resources: Edwards Aquifer, Trinity Aquifer, Twin Oaks Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Western Canyon Project, Recycled Water and Regional Carrizo Project. In addition it is has plans for future water supplies by expanding local Carrizo and Regional Water Supply. Ocean water desalination and Brackish Groundwater Desalination are projects and long-term solutions to the water needs of San Antonio.

Water Conservation Programs include Xeriscaping, Rainwater harvesting, rebates on water saver landscape, irrigation design rebate, swimming pool filter rebates, free toilets.

District 7 has old pipes that are cracking and leaking water. I would continue to improve the aged infrastructure in District 7 that affects our neighborhood and the city's water supply.

Promote green spaces and gardening with donating and recommending water safer plants and drought tolerant trees and grass.

11. Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

I believe in a seamless, efficient, fair and affordable multi-modal transit public transportation system. It keeps us less dependent on oil and gas and is better for our environment. I see the need for rail between cities and sectors of the city. However, I have to respect the wishes of the majority of the people in my District. There is a dispute on whether the street cars are considered part of the rail system or are considered the rail system. This has upset many people who voted against it and think they are coming in under a different name. We either have not done a good job in educating the people of the benefits, the people do not trust the government for lack of transparency and opennessor not listening to their concerns. As I block walk I have received both sides of the issues. Some believe the way I do and are well prepared to defend their position. Others do not want it; some think that street cars are more expensive than buses. Others think that they are being built to accommodate the rich and that more private money should be put on the table especially around the Broadway sector. Others think that it is too costly when other basic needs are not being met on District 7. Some think there is not the density and that large sums of money are being put forth without proper analysis and projection.....and as one told me, "it will cost a great deal of money to install the rails and

to remove the rails.” There definitely needs to be more dialogue. If elected, I would represent the views of the majority of the people in District 7. I would hold town hall meetings to present the benefits and concerns. I would eventually want the people to vote on this very important and controversial issue. I believe that the people have to be educated about the pros and cons of the rail system and allowed to vote. I will honor the wishes of the people. If the people decide for rail, I would want District 7 to be well connected to the system, proposing new housing and economic development along the lines. I would want it to be equally accessible and affordable to all the people to get to the places of interest they need it for, such as jobs, entertainment, education and their residential homes.

12. Why are you running for City Council?

I am running for City Council of District 7 because it is my nature to help people and I have a passion to serve, to solve problems, and to create positive change. As Founder and President and CEO of AVANCE, I have spent three decades of my professional life working with others to make a difference in the lives of children, families and communities, bringing hope and opportunity and positive outcomes in the poorest communities in San Antonio. I offer my many years of experience solving problems and effectively managing a large organization, my analytical skills, my resources and networks, my education, and my passion to serve. I have lived in District 7 for 32 years, and now I want to serve my neighbors and the people of District 7. More importantly, I want to be their representative, to listen to their concerns, frustrations and issues, and together, be their voice and help bring about the changes that need to be done in District 7.

Only 7% of the people voted in the last City of San Antonio election. Voter apathy reflects the distrust in government. I want the residents to again trust in their government by first and foremost respecting them, being honest, accessible, open and transparent. I will be responsive and proactive, and will not ignore their issues or concerns. I will work hard to be there when I am needed and to attend neighborhood association meetings that will enable me to learn their issues and concerns. I am retired and have a great deal of energy and the time to devote to the people and will take my role very seriously.

I want District 7 to be a vibrant place in which to live, work, and play. I want to create communities that are safe, and rich of culture and vitality; that have adequate housing, parks or green spaces, gardens, walkable streets, sidewalks, curbs; bicycle and exercise paths, and community centers where diverse people can come together, as neighbors, to meet one another, to learn, and to get the services they need. I want to continue to support children, families and communities in a broader way.

13. Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

I am the founder of AVANCE, Inc (formerly known as AVANCE-San Antonio, Inc) and was its President and CEO for 32 years. Together with many individuals, philanthropists and benevolent organizations, we took AVANCE from a \$100,000 organization to a \$36

million organization, serving tens of thousands of children and parents. Through this pioneering work of parent education, early childhood and family support we were able to reverse educational outcomes from a 91% drop out rate among the parents to a 94% graduation rate among the children, and a 50% college attendance rate among the children. It was a three generation educational approach to encourage the parents and grandparents to return to school to learn English, get their GED or pursue a college education themselves. We transformed high-risk communities, like our first AVANCE center in the Mirasol Housing Project, by reducing crime by neighbor protecting neighbor, addressing graffiti, planting trees, building playgrounds, and creating jobs. This is my most noteworthy and most rewarding professional accomplishment. We changed tens of thousands of lives, many poor communities and expanded the AVANCE model throughout Texas and into California. AVANCE's accomplishments and successes were recognized in the New York Times, ABC World News Tonight, in the White House, and in three First Ladies books. We were visited by Prince Charles and Barbara Bush. My leadership role was recognized by receiving the Hispanic Heritage Award at the Kennedy center, in Lifetime Television, in Parade, Mothers and Parent's Magazine. I was inducted into the San Antonio and Texas Hall of Fame and recognized four times by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of 100 Most Influential Hispanics in America. A very meaningful award that I received was the NHLI (National Hispanic Leadership Institute) National Mujer Award for a Lifetime of Ethical Leadership.

14. Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

I have been very actively involved in local, state and national boards, commissions and task forces:

Nationally and Internationally:

I was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the President's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans for six years; I served on the Christian Children's Fund International Board; and served on numerous philanthropic and civic organizations and national delegations to Israel, France, Chili on issues related to children and women.

I served on the SAMSA board dealing with mental health and social services and I served on the National Adolescent Prevention Board to address the high pregnancy among teenage Latina adolescents.

I served on numerous philanthropic and government task forces and was asked to present congressional testimony on issues related to children, families and communities.

I continue to be asked to speak and serve as a consultant on issues related to children, families and communities throughout the country.

I am the author of the book Raising Nuestros Ninos: Bringing Up Latino Children in a Bicultural World, and am writing my second book.

State:

Served as Chair, of the Head Start Texas Coordinating Board.

Served on Ann Richard's Early Childhood Transition Board

Provided and continue to provide testimony on Education, Health, and Immigration Issues.

Local:

I was on San Antonio Development Agency Board as Vice Chairperson. I served as Chairperson of the Family Task Force for Target 90 and attended every meeting for SA 2020, helping define the goals.

I continue to speak to students, parent groups and civic groups on issues related to education and on children, families and communities and women's issues.

I was a monthly guest writer for the San Antonio Light regarding issues on children families and communities, and have been asked to speak from my book entitled Raising Nuestros Ninos to parents in schools.

I have been very active in my Neighborhood Association as Fundraising chair and chairperson of Night Out.

I was involved in addressing concerns to the SAISD Board regarding the Bond Project and Alamo Stadium and I joined a group of people that were opposed to the decision of firing Bianca Maldonado from the Historic Review and Design Commission for speaking up on behalf of the community.

15. Describe your education. I have my Doctorate Degree from UT of Austin in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. I also have an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Willamette University. I have my Masters Degree from Our Lady of the Lake in Education with a concentration on Supervision and Midmanagement. I have my Bachelor's Degree in Education. I have my teaching certification and my certification to become an Elementary School Principal. I also have been part of numerous Leadership Development Institutes/classes, including John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership Management Program, the Center for Creative Leadership and was part of Leadership Texas, Leadership San Antonio and the founding class of the National Hispanic Leadership Institute.

16. Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No, we do not.

17. Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No, we have not.

18. Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No, I have not.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Carlos Zaldivar

Date of birth: July 30, 1965

Position sought: City Council District 7

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? 4 years

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? Ms. Sculley is professional at what she does, her dedication to her job on behalf of our city is commendable.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? I have not signed any pledges, but I would keep the budget under control...

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? I have already organized a volunteer based Urban Planning Committee, so to design the first District 7 Master Plan, and without having to burden the taxpayers in my District, the limitations have been hit. I strongly believe that Safety follows Order, Order eliminates Crime, and there is nothing better than to design an Order inspired urbanization plan for District 7. Putting into effect the Urban Master Planning for District 7 will be an incentive for developers and business investors, to invest in District 7, this plan will attract the moneys it needs to be developed. And it will not only reduce crime, beautify our streets and curve appeal, but it will make jobs. I'm proposing bringing together District 7 through Bandera Road, which is our unifying road.

Do you support increased pay for council members? Our city has grown to become more demanding to our public officials, the complexities of our times demand that they spend much more time resolving issues and I would give a stipend to Councilmen in return for their invested time.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? Both need to be addressed responsibly, fiscally and with an informed conscience.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations? I would support whatsoever benefits the persons living in District 7 and the city.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone? I would do whatsoever necessary to support SAWS management improvement to protect the Aquifer.

How would you address the city's future water needs? More research needs to be done to protect the water sources and supplies of our city, I would encourage having a committee to oversee the implementation of new methods of filtering water, and recharging the Aquifer.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? I would like to see San Antonio a much better city, with better transportation, safer streets, better landscaping, better streets and sidewalks, just as much as anyone else. However, my experience is that I should act responsibly and live within my means. I would not burden the citizens of District 7 with more amenities than what they cannot afford.

Why are you running for City Council? Our urbanization in District 7, streets and sidewalks have badly fallen into disrepair. I would like to better Bandera Road being that is the main corridor on District 7, by taking care of basics in our district, starting with the maintenance of roads and sidewalks, reducing crime by promoting business growth, therefore bringing more jobs and prosperity. And by strengthening our police forces and fire department, this is a must in bringing safety to our community.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments. Throughout my career in the Architecture Industry I had been invited to participate in design competitions, where my works have won the respect of my peers and other professionals, who in turn have given me design awards for my work, one being the First Price Award from Vidaud Architecture and Associates, for a residential design. Personally, I have organized and/or participated as board member or volunteer in many non-profit organizations and groups helping minority children, churches, unwed mothers, art events, international High School students, PK-8th grade students, elderly, homeless, and many other beneficiaries. Some include the Aspen Deaf Camp, Summit for Life, AIA Tour of Homes, St. Mary Magdalen, Hope for the Future, Special Olympics, Providence Home and Family Services and many more.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement. I'm a member on various charitable organizations, such as the Knight of Columbus, Board member for the San Antonio Coalition for Life, I serve as Eucharistic Minister at St. Matthews Catholic Church, and many others in the past.

Describe your education. My main degrees are: a 5 year Advanced Degree of Architecture, a "Mini-Med" degree, and a Master of Science in Management degree.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Michael Alyn Kueber

Date of birth: September 24, 1953

Position sought: City Council District #8

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? Twenty-five years

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes, provided their cost-effectiveness can be shown. Although this is not a traditional governmental activity, it is now, ironically, a part of the free market and something that the City of San Antonio needs to do to compete with other cities. But I reject Mayor Castro's position that it is appropriate for the City to provide more generous abatements/incentives for Southside locations, which he admitted doing a few months ago with Nexolon.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? Sculley has been a competent professional, but she would perform much better if the City Council provided her with better direction.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? No. The level of taxation can't be determined in a vacuum; rather, it must take into consideration the level of necessary services/spending. If additional services are deemed necessary, and we can't find cuts elsewhere in the budget, then taxes would need to be raised. Pre-K 4 SA is an example of the citizens wanting their government to provide an additional service and being willing to pay for it (although the Pre-K sales pitch of \$8 per year was shamefully misleading).

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? A lean government that focuses on doing the basics really well, but also facilitates equal opportunity for the disadvantaged without encouraging a culture of dependency. Facilitating equal opportunity is why I support Pre-K, but we shouldn't have created a 17th school district. Instead the program should have been delegated by the City Council via block grants to the school districts. With respect to a lean government, I am incredulous that Ron Nirenberg, a self-described fiscal conservative, declares in his campaign's Vision brochure, "*Emergency services are the single largest investment of our tax dollars, and we need to make sure that we don't cut them in an effort to 'get lean' during the budget process.*" I can't imagine what he could say that would make it more obvious that he isn't a fiscal conservative. Since when is "getting lean" a negative term? Millions of dollars can be saved in the police and fire budgets by getting lean. Another example of the City getting lean would be to rescind the ridiculous policy recently adopted by the City Council for granting preferences to minority contractors. The City should be able to save millions by awarding bids to the best contractors, regardless of race, ethnicity, or sex.

Do you support increased pay for council members? No, I believe in the concept of public service from citizen volunteers, and that is what the voters clearly want. Ditto for the Texas state legislature, although their extravagant pension plan contradicts their status as volunteers.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? Economic growth is essential for a vibrant San Antonio, but within the constraints created by the free market and other governmental entities, San Antonio's objective should be an improving environment, not a deteriorating one. Those who do damage to the environment need to be restrained, and cost-effective measures to protect the environment should be effected.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations? Yes, yes. Economic growth is essential for a vibrant San Antonio. Although the in-fill of existing territory and the development of transit corridors should be encouraged, any heavy-handed attempt by the city to redirect the free market will create waste and is doomed to failure.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone? San Antonio needs to work with the Edwards Aquifer Authority and the legislature regarding appropriate statutes and regulations to ensure the quantity and quality of aquifer water. We

should explore the possibility of coordinating with other jurisdictions regarding impervious-cover regulations and the purchase of conservation easements.

How would you address the city's future water needs? SAWS needs to continue developing alternative sources of water, the city of San Antonio needs to improve on its robust water-conservation efforts, and the legislature needs to fund its Water programs.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? Public transportation is an important core function for the city, so this is an area in which we need to excel. But our network needs to be based on satisfying known needs, not on the speculative concept of, "*If you build it, they will come.*" For the foreseeable future, light rail will not be cost-effective in San Antonio. And, although historic streetcars in the downtown may be potentially viable and can be an important contributor to the revitalization of downtown, the current VIA proposal, with two lengthy modern-streetcar routes, reeks of developer speculation.

Why are you running for City Council? Because I have the time, energy, finances, and inclination to serve and because my background, critical-thinking skills, and governing values (fiscal conservative and equal-opportunity advocate) will enable me to effectively represent the residents of District 8. Furthermore, both of the other candidates are afflicted with serious conflicts of interest, and their histories of living off the government – Briones has a career as a government contractor and Nirenberg has a career as a community organizer – do not comport with someone who is going to work for a lean city government. Briones is described by Plaza de Armas as "*politically connected and a prolific contributor to City and County candidates*" and Nirenberg's profligacy is exemplified, not only by his refusal to "*get lean*" with police and fire costs, but by his promise to expand the City's patronage of the arts, an expansion that would coincide with his employer KTRU's mission to "*enrich the cultural vitality of San Antonio.*" Clearly a conflict of interest.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments. Despite graduating from a high school with only nine kids in my senior class, I achieved a high level of college success, which resulted in my admission as an out-of-state student into the University of Texas Law School (state law limited out-of-state positions to 15% of the class); I was an executive attorney at USAA who was responsible for ensuring that Auto Insurance operations (Claims, Underwriting, and Actuary) complied with ever-changing statutes, regulations, and caselaw in 50 states; I am the father of four fine young men – an army captain (UTSA), a Mayo Clinic doctor

(UT), an oilfield-acquisitions guy (UTSA), and a college student (Franciscan of Ohio); I have written a public-interest blog for three years called Mike Kueber's blog.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement. I ran for Congress in the 2010 Republican primary for the 23rd District and was formerly a member of the Woods of Shavano Homeowners Association.

Describe your education. Law Degree from the University of Texas in 1979 and a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the University of North Dakota in 1975

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? No

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. No

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name:

Ron Nirenberg

Date of birth:

April 11, 1977

Position sought:

City Council District 8

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

Four years as of May 2013

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Yes, but we must choose carefully. Incentives and tax abatements help keep San Antonio competitive, enhance our quality of life and maintain our affordable cost of living. However, those tools should be used judiciously and transparently. Imbalanced incentives should not become giveaways for those more interested in cost savings

than corporate citizenship. Every citizen, including new ones, should be expected to pay their fair share.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

Excellent. Sheryl Sculley deserves tremendous credit for San Antonio's economic health during a time of extreme national economic turmoil. She is part of a leadership team that has reduced the size of city government, kept taxes from rising, and delivered smart bond programs. The challenges ahead will continue to test her mettle as well as the leadership abilities of all elected officials.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No. Time and again, politicians sign those pledges and break them when revenues run short or use them as an opportunity to raise fees and rates with little transparency. We need to have responsible discussions so that we can address the challenges of our day. I will fight tooth-and-nail to keep our taxes, fees, rates, etc. from rising unnecessarily.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

To restore public trust to meet the challenges ahead. As citizens, we need to know our leaders are working in our best interests, focusing on city services and infrastructure

like streets, public safety, utilities, and so forth. It takes six votes of the council to pass any measure, so I believe that we must work collaboratively toward compromise with elected colleagues in order to accomplish important city and District 8 priorities.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

Yes, but as a candidate, I will not support higher pay because it would be a conflict of interest. I believe that in the end, city council members should be paid a salary they can live on, just as other full-time elected officials. This allows regular citizens to serve without relying on donations or token jobs that could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

I believe in managed growth, which allows for the engine of development to work in the best interest of the community-at-large. Managed growth should include attracting new jobs and more business as well as increasing our park lands, upholding best practices for clean air, and observing the strictest protections of the Edwards Aquifer and other water sources.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies?
Would you support any annexations?

Yes, but only if we make a concerted effort toward managed growth and land use planning. Policies concerning the expansion of development outside of city limits should remain neutral. The city and county need to work together to ensure that new development meets the communities' best interests and, most importantly, that the county is able to support these communities with basic county services without placing additional burden on our resources.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

I support restrictions on impervious cover, hazardous material storage, and overall development to protect our region's main source of drinking water. I will work to maintain public support for Aquifer Protection Initiative, which helps ensure the integrity of sensitive regions over the aquifer.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

We must address San Antonio's water challenges on all fronts. First and foremost is conservation. Second, we need to diversify and add new water supplies. Third, we need to reaffirm our efforts to protect the Edwards by working interlocally to manage growth over the aquifer. Fourth, we need to address our governance issues by demanding more transparency and accountability from SAWS.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

Not at this time. We should maximize our public transit assets first before we broach another consideration of local passenger rail. I do not support investment in rail at a time when we are faced with a funding model that is upside down.

Why are you running for City Council?

I want to serve my district and the city of San Antonio in a thoughtful, balanced way in order to serve the best interests of our community long term. Doing so will help us improve the quality of life for residents, bring good new jobs to San Antonio to grow our economy and put people back to work, fix our roads and infrastructure to get the city moving, and make public safety a priority to protect San Antonio families.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

- Graduated *summa cum laude* from Trinity University, where I led the campus newspaper to its first ever win of first place in collegiate newspapers by the American Scholastic Press Association, a title it retains to this day.
- Earned a Master of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for

Communication, where I advanced the scholarship in autoethnographic research methods.

- Developed and directed nonpartisan civic engagement and public policy research projects at the Annenberg Public Policy Center, including Student Voices, which won numerous national and regional awards.
- Started two businesses, including Nirenberg Fitness Training, Ltd. Co. (2003) and ColectivaMente Consulting, Ltd. Co. (2007).
- Designed and executed “San Antonio’s Year of Jazz” initiative through Trinity University’s KRTU, which united over two dozen arts and cultural institutions in a year-long celebration of our cultural heritage. The initiative included a uniform MOU that called for collaborative marketing, revenue sharing, audience generation and private funding, along with original commissioned works and events throughout the city of San Antonio. It garnered local, national and international coverage for San Antonio, and required no government funding.
- Member of Leadership San Antonio, Class 37.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

- Board Member of Brackenridge Park Conservancy.
- Board Member of Northside Neighbors for Organized Development.
- Board Member/President of Summerfield Homeowners Association.
- Member of Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce transportation committee and water committee.

- Member of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce government affairs committee.
- Former board member of Music in the Schools.
- Work with various nonprofit organizations daily as associate general manager of Trinity University's KRTU-FM.
- Served on CoSA's Neighborhood Conferencing Committee to create restitution programs for first-time youth offenders and their victims.
- Worked with CoSA's Development Services and Planning Departments as producer of the first-ever public television program designed to educate citizens on the development process (*Building San Antonio*).

Describe your education.

- Earned a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity University in San Antonio (1999). Graduated *summa cum laude* with a major in Communication and minors in Speech Communication, Business, and Communication Management. Studied at the University of Glasgow in Glasgow, Scotland in Fall of 1997.
- Earned a Master of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication in Philadelphia (2001). Graduated *magna cum laude* and attended on full scholarship. Studied ethnographic research methods and civic engagement programs.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No



March 8, 2013

Bruce Davidson
Editorial Board
San Antonio Express-News
301 Avenue E
San Antonio, TX 78205

Subject: Election Questionnaire

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I wanted to thank you for sending the municipal election questionnaire to my office in relation to the May 11, 2013 election.

Since my first campaign in 2009, it has been my policy not to respond to campaign questionnaires. However, I would be happy to sit down with the New Editorial Board at the Express-News to discuss the items in the questionnaire or any other issues.

Please contact my office staff to let us know if you would like to arrange a time for me to meet with the Editorial Board.

Sincerely,

W. Elisa Chan
District 9 City Councilwoman

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Celeste Montez-Tidwell

Date of birth: February 3, 1968

Position sought: San Antonio City Council Seat District 10

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

My family and I have lived in this house in this neighborhood for 13 years. However, with the recent re-zoning maps which took effect in 2013, my district changed from District 9 to District 10. Although the Federal mandate changed the zones, my beliefs and my desire to serve as a voice for my neighbors and my community have not changed.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Yes, but the tax breaks should not continue indefinitely and only if the jobs created are secured for current residents of San Antonio.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

I think Sheryl Sculley has done a fantastic job for the city and has kept San Antonio progressive and seems to have been on schedule and within budget since she took the job.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

No. Taxes are a necessary part of running a city. We all live here and we are all responsible to help maintain the condition and inner workings of the city, but where the money is spent should not go unchecked.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

I want to whole-heartedly be the voice for my neighbors and my community. I have no agenda, except to be honest and maintain my integrity.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

No. Working on the City Council has really been more of a volunteer position, not a career. It's a responsibility and an honor to serve the city in which we live and should be considered a duty.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

The environment shouldn't ever take a back seat to economic growth because without clean air and water, we wouldn't be able to enjoy any of the wealth obtained.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

Yes, I support pro-growth policies only after intense investigation as to how it not only benefits the city, but how it affects the immediate areas. It's a tricky situation. Everyone wants the city to grow, but there should be boundaries.

Annexations can be packaged differently and I would need to know all of the facts before I could make a definite decision. I would be willing to support an annexation package after considering possible implications.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

Water conservation and contaminant transport regulation are crucial for protecting the aquifer. This is the main water supply for millions of people and animal species both non-endangered and endangered.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

Locating and investing in possible recharge structures upstream to work only during optimum storms. These structures will help prevent flooding and guide the water through the limestone to be used and allow constant discharge adjusted for each stream.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

It depends if this is a rail system within the city limits or intracity. A rail system between San Antonio and Austin would be beneficial because of how many citizens make that commute everyday, not to mention easing the traffic on I 35. I don't think the city needs a railway system within the city.

Why are you running for City Council?

I want to speak for my neighbors and use my passion and integrity to effect change by representing my community.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

Being a Mom.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

Unopposed Precinct Chair for 3085 since 2008,

Member of the Grassroots Organizing for America
Member of the Bexar County Young Democrats
Member on the Executive Board of Directors for a Youth Organization
serving as Public Relations Director

Describe your education.

Attended 2 years at San Antonio College,
Gained acceptance into Temple University in Philadelphia, PA

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

No.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

No.

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

No.

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Carlton Soules

Date of birth: August 16, 1966

Position sought: City Council District 10

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent? Over 33 years.
Before that I lived in the City of Windcrest.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool? Yes, provided they are actually necessary to win new business, are applied consistently, appropriately monitored, and the details are transparent.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance? Although we differ on some policy issues, overall she has done a good job for the City.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes? No I have not signed a pledge not to raise taxes.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council? My top priority is to provide thoughtful and respectful leadership to Council, city staff, and the citizens of San Antonio. My focus remains improvement to basic city services and infrastructure, and demanding transparency and efficiency within our utilities and city departments.

Do you support increased pay for council members? Yes, but with conditions.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment? As an outdoorsman, park enthusiast, and businessman, I believe we can achieve prosperity and growth and still protect the environment. Too often costly "environmentally correct" programs are proposed that burden the taxpayer but do little actual good for the environment.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations? Yes-the region will grow regardless of what we do and we cannot afford stagnation. Yes, with conditions and clear understandings with the communities getting annexed.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone? I believe we currently have strong ordinances and rules in place to protect the recharge zone. The citizens of San Antonio have also made huge investments through sales tax initiatives and rates to protect the Edwards Aquifer. Any proposed new rules would have to be studied carefully.

How would you address the city's future water needs? The citizens of San Antonio have done a tremendous job of conservation and have done most of the heavy lifting so far. It is time for SAWS to step up. First, streamline SAWS operations and management to increase efficiencies and free up funding to acquire new sources. Second, we are just learning the poor state of our sewer system. We need to assess the state of our water delivery system as well and repair as necessary. Every gallon we lose is a gallon we have to make up somewhere else. Third, focus on acquiring the most water currently available at the cheapest cost while we can. Desalinization, while it has a place in our future, should not be our first priority.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network? We do not have a real strategy and funding plan to maintain our current roads, sidewalks, drainage systems, parks, libraries etc. I am not open to another major infrastructure project we cannot properly take care of.

Why are you running for City Council? During my first term we started many district initiatives such as the Perrin Bietel-Nacogdoches revitalization project and we passed the 2012 bond that includes several large district projects. I want to make sure these initiatives bear fruit and the bond projects are done well. During my second term I will be focused on economic development and long term issues that will impact our city and region.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments. I have been a successful business owner, happily married almost 22 years to my wife Laura, and we have two wonderful and talented children. I think I have been a strong voice on City Council and have represented the interests of my District well.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement. Obviously my current role as City Council representative covers a fair amount of both civic and community involvement. Prior to Council, I was active on numerous city boards and commissions, including Parks and Recreation. I have been a leader in five Homeowner and Neighborhood associations, and served on the board of the San Antonio Food Bank.

Describe your education. MacArthur High School in district 10 and Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio? [Yes](#).

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse? [No](#)

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain. [No](#).

S.A. Express-News Editorial Board City Council Questionnaire

Name: Arthur M. Thomas IV

Date of Birth: May 2, 1978

Position Sought: City Council District 10

How long have you lived in the district you are seeking to represent?

I was just redistricted into 10 so technically I have lived in this district since the new district map. I have been living at this location for about 4 years and 9 months. I have been a resident of San Antonio since May 2005.

Do you support providing tax abatements or incentives to companies bringing new facilities and jobs to San Antonio as an economic development tool?

Often a government offers direct or indirect incentives to get a new business into the community. However, the incentives too often cost the government more in dollars than local wages and salaries generated by the new company. Keeping taxes competitive and honest, efficient government will welcome sound business investments more than handouts to crony capitalists hustling a buck out of city government. Those incentives often carry a hidden price tag for the long term residents and businesses of a community who pick up the tab via the taxes they pay. Fortune 500 companies have been moving their headquarters to Texas from states such as New York, California and Illinois for the last several decades. The majority of these decisions have been based on lower state taxes and more reasonable regulatory environment. I favor using our available tax dollars to maintain high quality services for all of our community.

How would you rate City Manager Sheryl Sculley's job performance?

As a city council member, I expect Ms. Sculley to help me meeting the concerns of my constituents. My goal as city council representative is to keep city government responsive to the citizens that employ them.

Have you signed or would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes?

While I would not sign a pledge it is not because I have any intention of raising taxes. Pledges such as this are political game. I believe that some measures might be taken that still are seen as 'raising taxes'. For instance if I voted to end

some sort of subsidy or tax break on an entity then that could be seen as 'raising taxes'. I refuse to participate in that political game. I believe that a flat out tax increase ban is more of a political show more than meaningful discourse. I have no intention of raising taxes though and think that it should be the goal of government to always be in search of a way to restore money to the taxpayers who earned it.

What would be your top priority as a member of City Council?

I would like to work towards a city where citizens can be more involved instead of being like ever other city and waiting on the government to 'do the right thing'. I have seen citizens complain about crime, sidewalks and roads, and mostly local concerns to their area. Overall a city can take care of the basics, but I think citizens should have more say locally in meeting their concerns.

I would like to build a voluntary 'city builder' website on which citizen projects could be started and funded voluntarily. This could be anything from having a stretch of sidewalk built on undeveloped land, helping a firehouse fund new equipment, or paying for police overtime. The possibilities are endless. I think this puts people in direct control of their concerns and they can get their neighbors involved. It encourages communication and involvement with local services as well. The voluntary activity is aggregated over citizens in an area which means people can accomplish goals voluntarily without any specific group having to sacrifice.

Government should get out of the way of people that are committed to improving their areas. Everyone with similar interests can work together to accomplish improvements. The funding would be guaranteed to the project it was donated unless otherwise indicated by the citizen. No money could be directed out of the 'city builder' project. At worst it could only be redirected to another project at the agreement of the donor.

I want people to be in charge of their city and to invest in it. The old style idea of having taxpayer money taken and hoping it comes back in a good way doesn't have to be the only way. We can take care of problems together and in a voluntary way.

Do you support increased pay for council members?

I would be willing to discuss this issue since there is cost to being a council member. I would want this to be a budget neutral proposal. City council members should not be able to vote themselves a pay increase for their present term.

What is your philosophy on balancing economic growth and the environment?

Strong property rights are essential to environmental protections. The environment is best protected by parties with environmental concerns investing in property. If politicians are pushing city growth it often brings in entities eager to be influenced by the economics that come with it. Government with the best intentions can be the greatest destructive force to environment. Natural and steady growth allow communities to adapt and make decisions about their areas better.

If there are to be specific environmental regulations, I would prefer them to be at the state level. I do not want to create a confusing, conflicting, and burdensome bureaucracy.

Do you feel the city should pursue pro-growth policies? Would you support any annexations?

I would need to see a more specific example of a 'pro-growth' policy, but in general I do not think politicians should be pushing or micromanaging city growth. I believe local government is there to take care of the basics and create a fair system for all to work and live in. When politicians get involved in shaping how a city grows it yields to political decisions and not rational ones. Cities can become corrupted in the process and the freedom of individuals is not protected.

San Antonio will naturally grow on its own. Trying to 'force' it to grow more through policy will at best trample on taxpayers and at worst cause growing problems like water and other expansion issues. A natural rate of growth preserves liberty and lets citizens and the city adapt to changes better.

I do not support coercive annexations. Further expanding the city area should be up to the people of that area.

What regulations do you support, if any, to protect the Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone?

There are already many regulations at state and federal level dictating use of the Edwards Aquifer. Another set of regulations imposed by the city is likely to be counter productive.

How would you address the city's future water needs?

Pressure should be put on SAWS to be efficient as possible and lower costs. Good service should be delivered at a reasonable price and profits should not go into marketing or padding paychecks but into maintenance and improvements.

Reducing fees for xeriscaping or other water conservation measures could also be considered.

This also ties into the question of growth. Water concerns often become a fast issue because the city pushes for growth faster than the population and services can adapt. Quality services and future expansion should always be considered over pro growth policies.

Do you think a rail system should be part of the city's public transportation network?

I would have no problem with this being done privately. I like the idea of a rail system if done in such a manner, but I am not for a taxpayer funded rail project. We cannot keep piling higher and higher tax burdens upon people for good intentions.

Rail systems are capital intensive, require large ongoing subsidies of several dollars per ticket purchased, and are inflexible due to their long lead time. Cities such as Portland, Oregon tout their rail systems but their budget has had to make hard decisions about funding the rail system versus police and street maintenance.

Additionally, the bus system is transportation to work for many of our citizens who earn lower wages. The initial rail system seems intended to citizens who can better afford private transportation. Let's improve the bus lines and improve the quality of life for people who are dependent on that mode for their livelihood.

If evaluating providing a cost beneficial service then a modest amount of money on the bus system will help transportation needs more than a large amount of money spent on a rail system which serves a few.

Why are you running for City Council?

I believe at every level of government we need people that start from the basic question: Should government be doing this? Very often government agencies and politicians take that question for granted. There must be people that question government growth and preserve the efforts and freedoms of the people.

Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

I have had a pretty steady career as a programmer. I worked after graduation at Texas Life Insurance until 2005 when I moved to San Antonio to work for Arias & Associates. I started getting involved in politics around 2008 and have become heavily involved in that and it takes up much of my time.

Describe your civic activities and community involvement.

Much of my involvement and time is taken up with the Libertarian Party of Texas and LP Bexar county.

Describe your education.

BA in Computer Science from Baylor University 2001.

Do you or your spouse have any business relationships or contracts with the City Of San Antonio?

Not directly. I work for a company that does work for the city, but I am not involved in any of that process as a programmer. I have no influence or say in those contracts.

Have you or your spouse ever filed bankruptcy or has a tax lien ever been placed on you or your spouse?

None

Have you ever been arrested? Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations? If the answer is yes, please explain.

None